



Vol. 671 Rs 25

The Cowherd of Alawi

— Buddhist Tales



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



The Cowherd of Alawi and Other Buddhist Tales

Gautama, as we all know, left home to find a way to eradicate human misery. He became Buddha, the enlightened one, when one day in a flash the truth dawned on him as he sat meditating under a Bodhi tree in Gaya.

He came back with practical solutions which even a lay-man could adopt. Those who followed him had to first accept and comprehend the four Noble truths —

that worldly existence is full of misery;

that desire and attachment are the causes of worldly existence;

that worldly existence could be ended by keeping out desire and attachment;

that there is a way to do this.

The path he advocated was the well-known eight-fold path. Right speech, right action and right means of livelihood to achieve control on the physical plane; right exertion, right-mindedness and right meditation to achieve mental strength and right resolution and right point of view for intellectual development. That these guidelines, when implemented, bring peace of mind is borne out by the Buddhist tales that have come down to us. A few such tales have been included in this Chitra Katha.

The last tale in this book is a Zen Buddhist tale from Japan.

Script : Subba Rao

Art Work : Dilip Kadam



AMAR CHITRA KATHA :

The Route to Your Roots

Over 80 million copies have been sold so far

Editor : Anant Pai

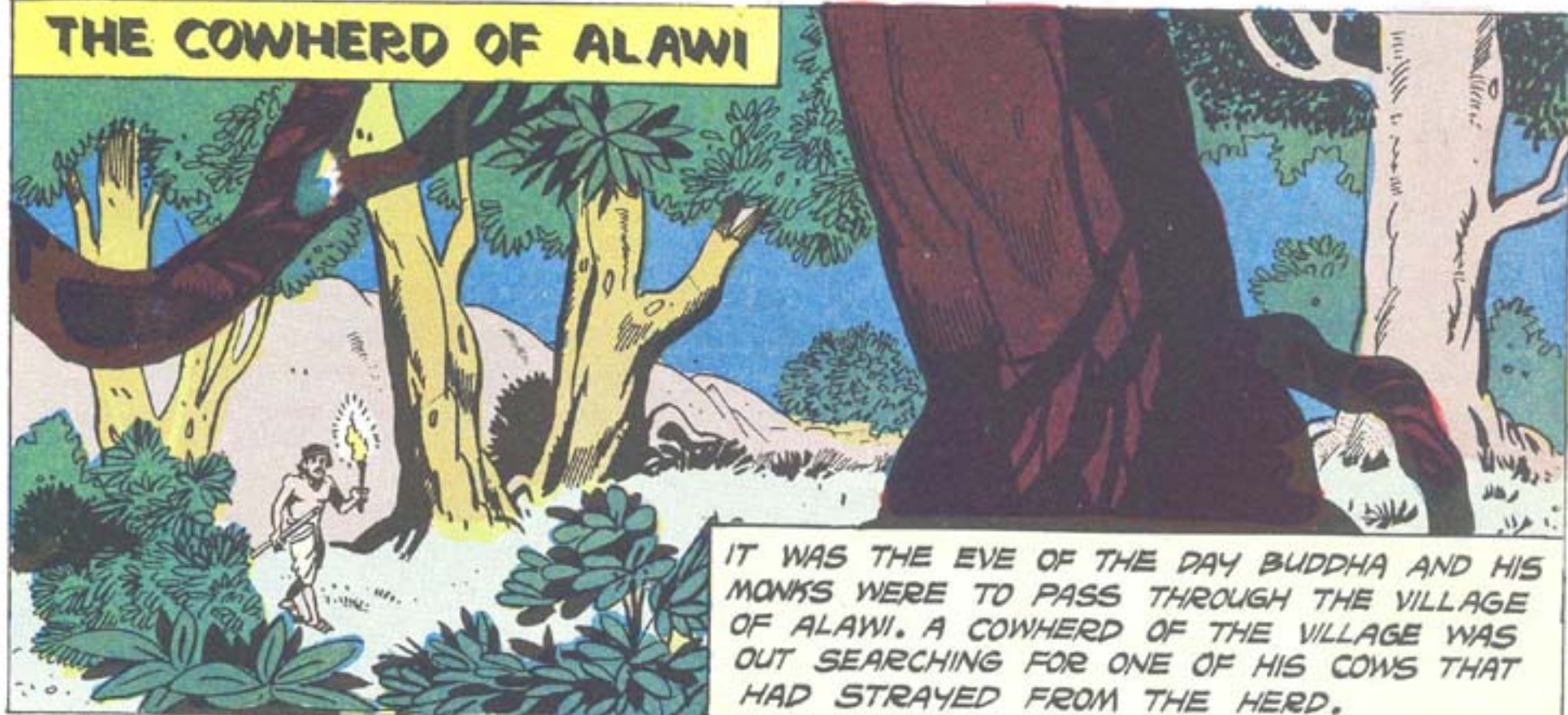
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THE COWHERD OF ALAWI



IT WAS THE EVE OF THE DAY BUDDHA AND HIS MONKS WERE TO PASS THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF ALAWI. A COWHERD OF THE VILLAGE WAS OUT SEARCHING FOR ONE OF HIS COWS THAT HAD STRAYED FROM THE HERD.

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT HE SEARCHED BUT COULD NOT FIND HER. SOON IT WAS MORNING. THE COWHERD WAS IN A QUANDARY.

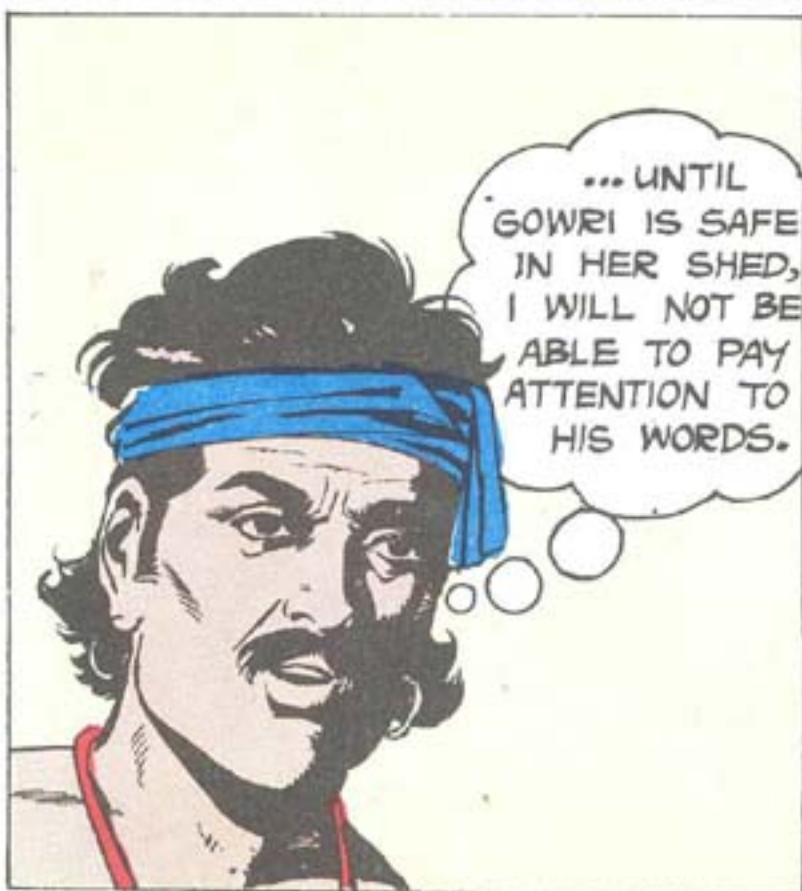
WHAT SHALL I DO?
UNLESS I TURN
BACK NOW...



... I WILL NOT BE
ABLE TO LISTEN TO
THE WORDS OF THE
ENLIGHTENED ONE.
AND YET...



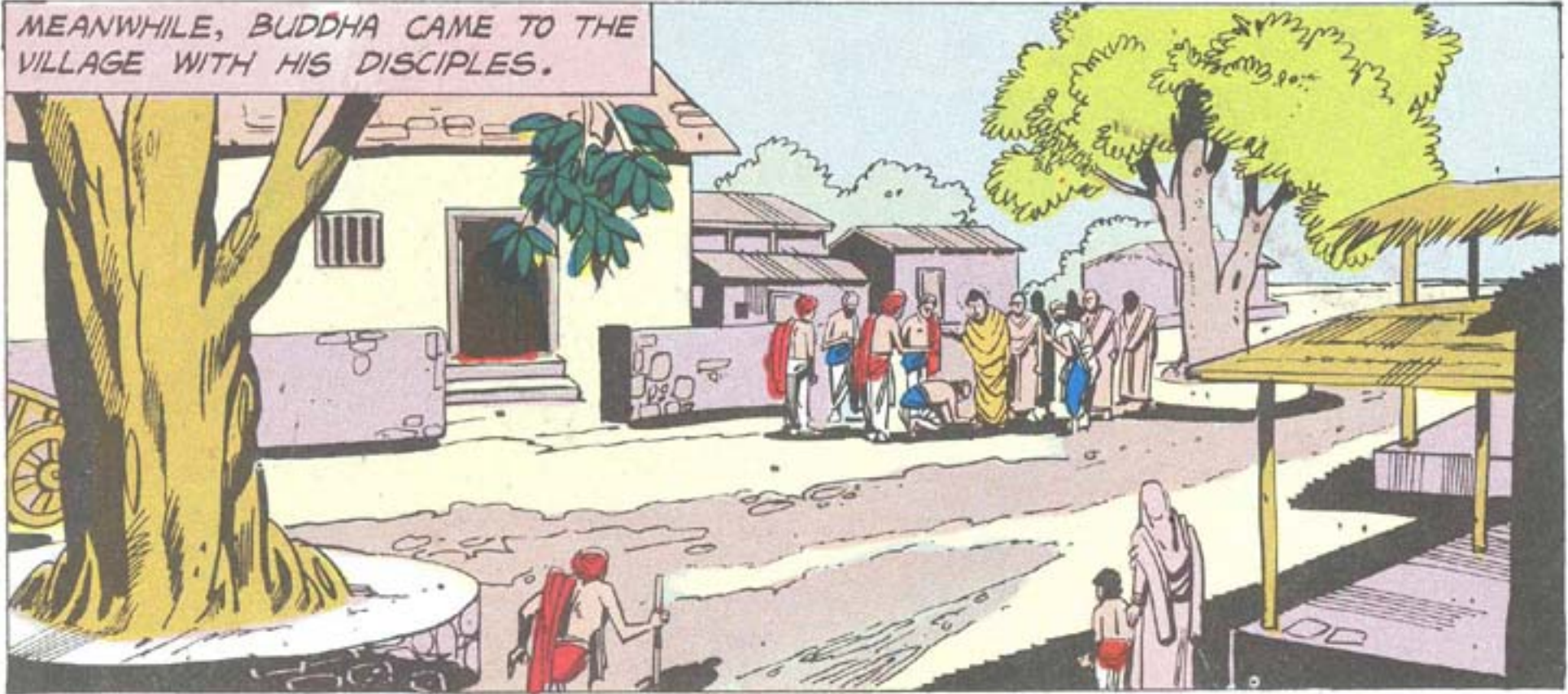
... UNTIL
GOWRI IS SAFE
IN HER SHED,
I WILL NOT BE
ABLE TO PAY
ATTENTION TO
HIS WORDS.



GOWRI WILL HAVE
TO BE FOUND BEFORE
I GO TO THE
TEACHER.



MEANWHILE, BUDDHA CAME TO THE VILLAGE WITH HIS DISCIPLES.



THE VILLAGERS SERVED THEM FOOD...

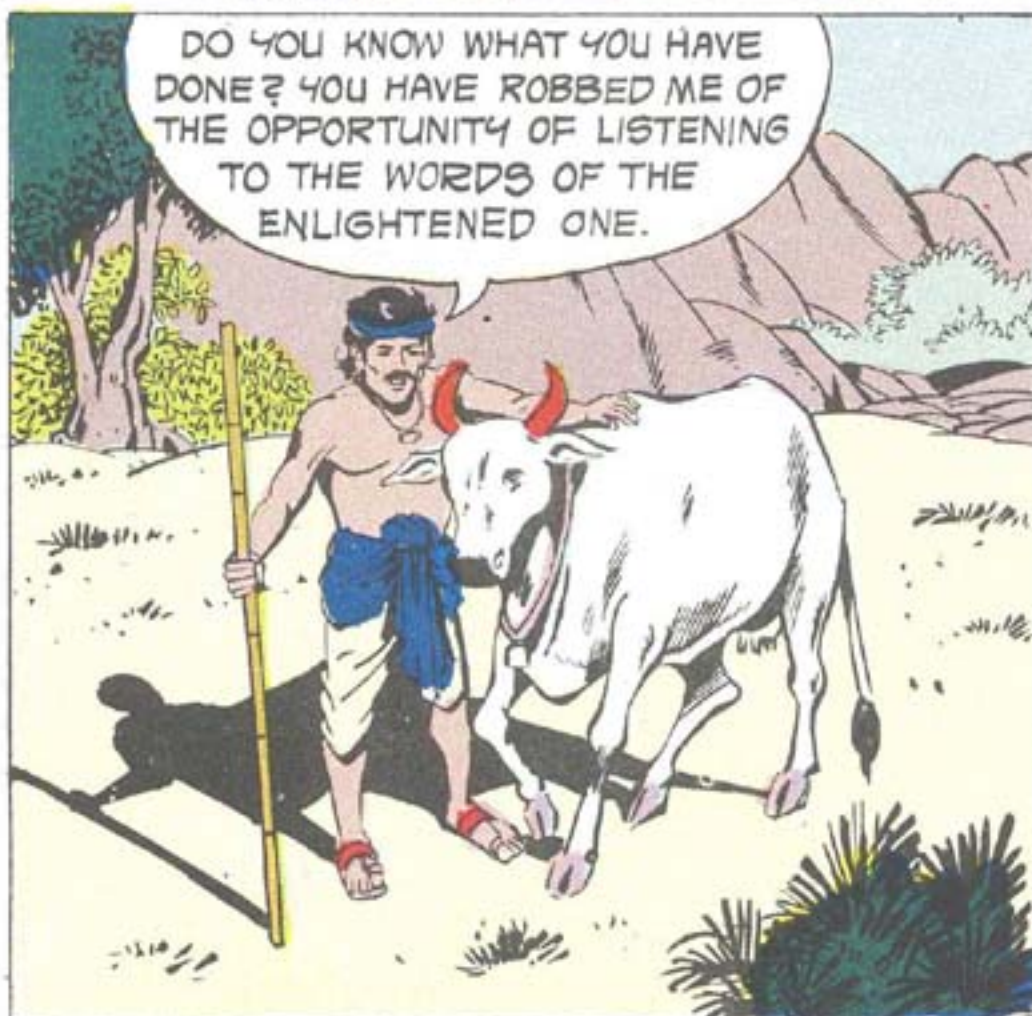


...AND LATER ASSEMBLED TO HEAR BUDDHA SPEAK.



THE COWHERD, MEANWHILE, HAD STILL NOT FOUND HIS COW.

SHE COULDN'T HAVE STRAYED THIS FAR. YET ...



AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE VILLAGE, THE COWHERD LEFT THE COW IN HER SHED...

...AND WITHOUT WAITING TO HAVE EVEN A CUP OF WATER, WENT STRAIGHT TO THE MEETING.

AH! THE TEACHER IS STILL HERE. IT WAS A GOOD THING I DID NOT STOP TO EAT SOMETHING BEFORE COMING.



OH! IF ONLY I DIDN'T FEEL SO HUNGRY. WELL...



PLEASE WAIT.



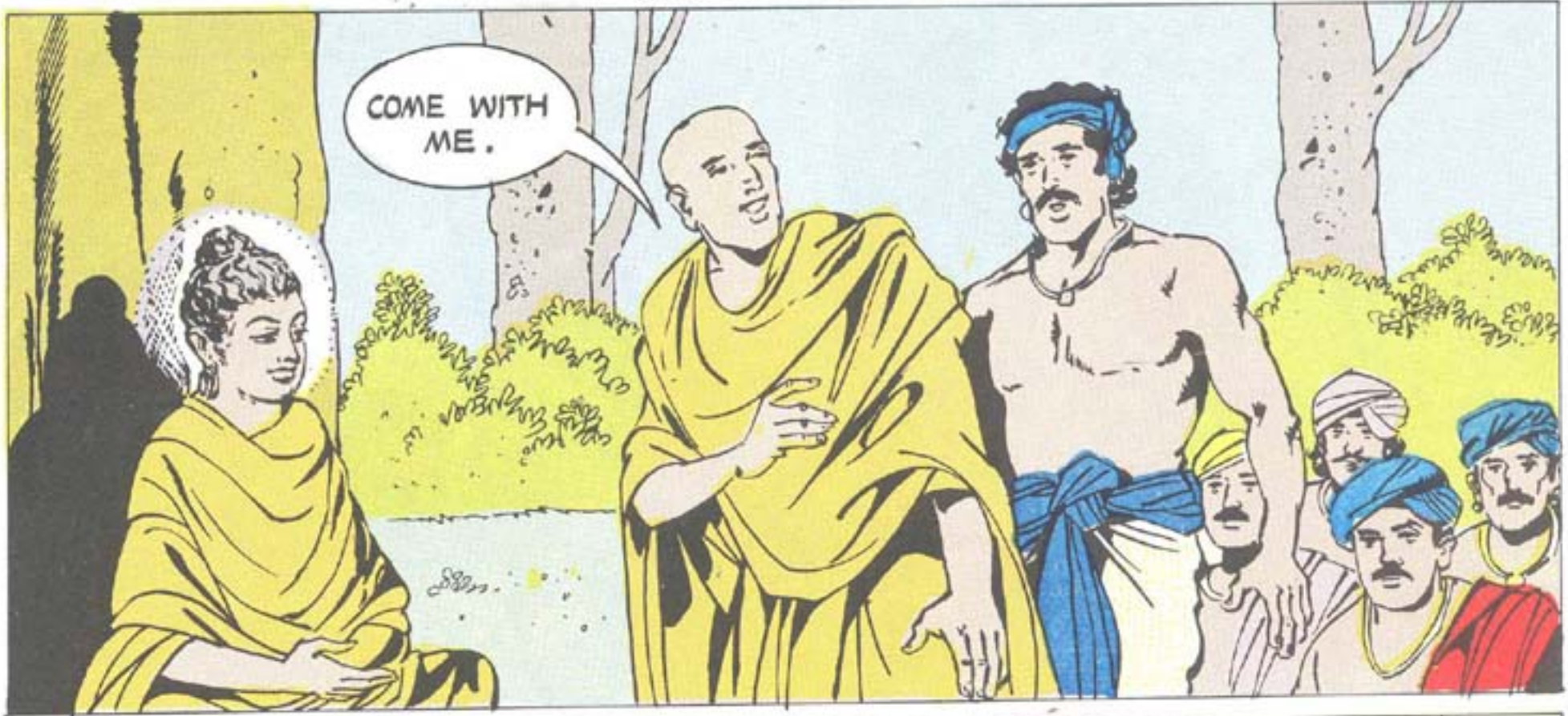
IS THERE ANY FOOD LEFT?

THERE IS, SIR.

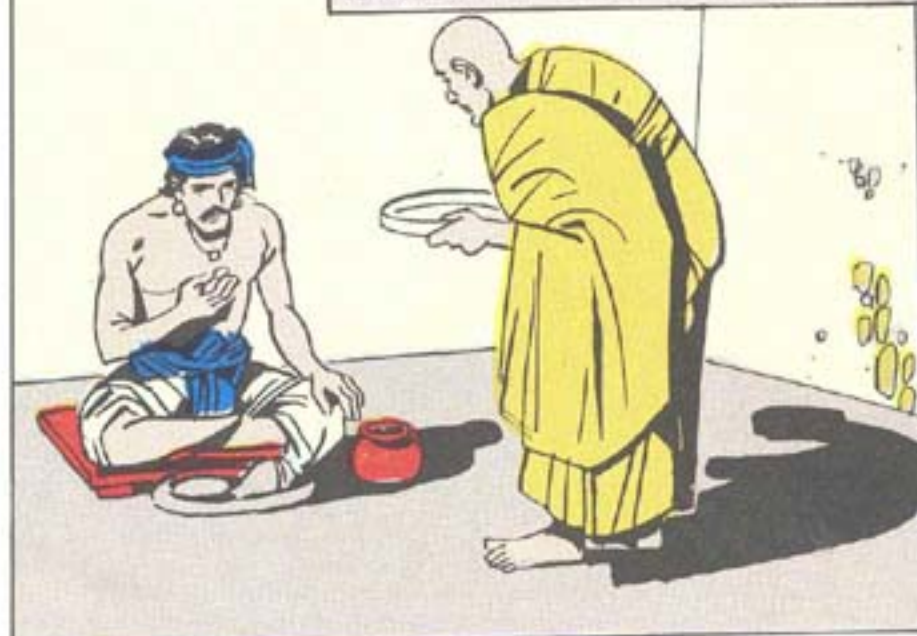


THEN PLEASE SERVE THIS MAN SOME.

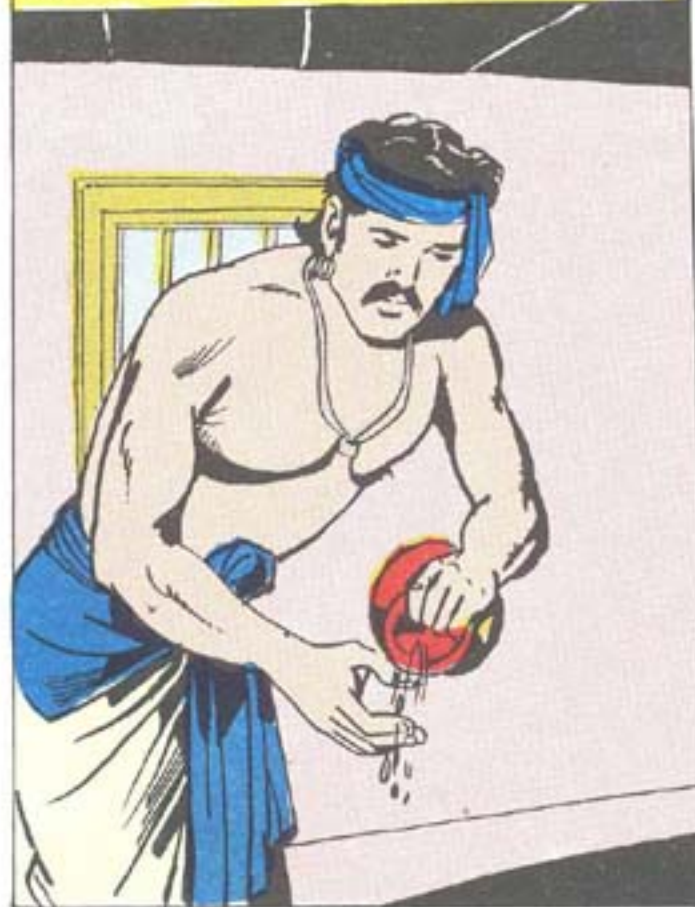




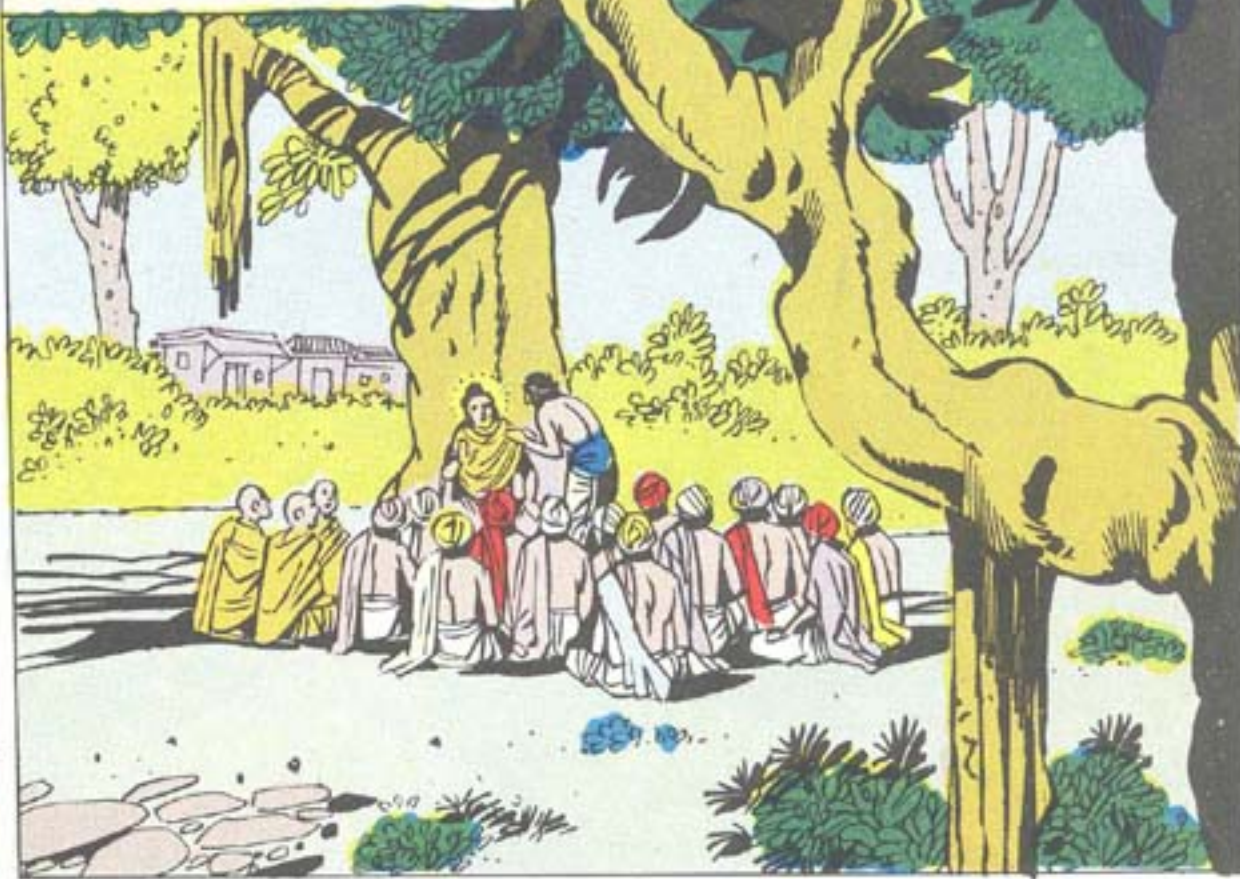
ONLY WHEN HE BEGAN EATING DID THE COWHERD REALIZE HOW HUNGRY AND THIRSTY HE WAS.



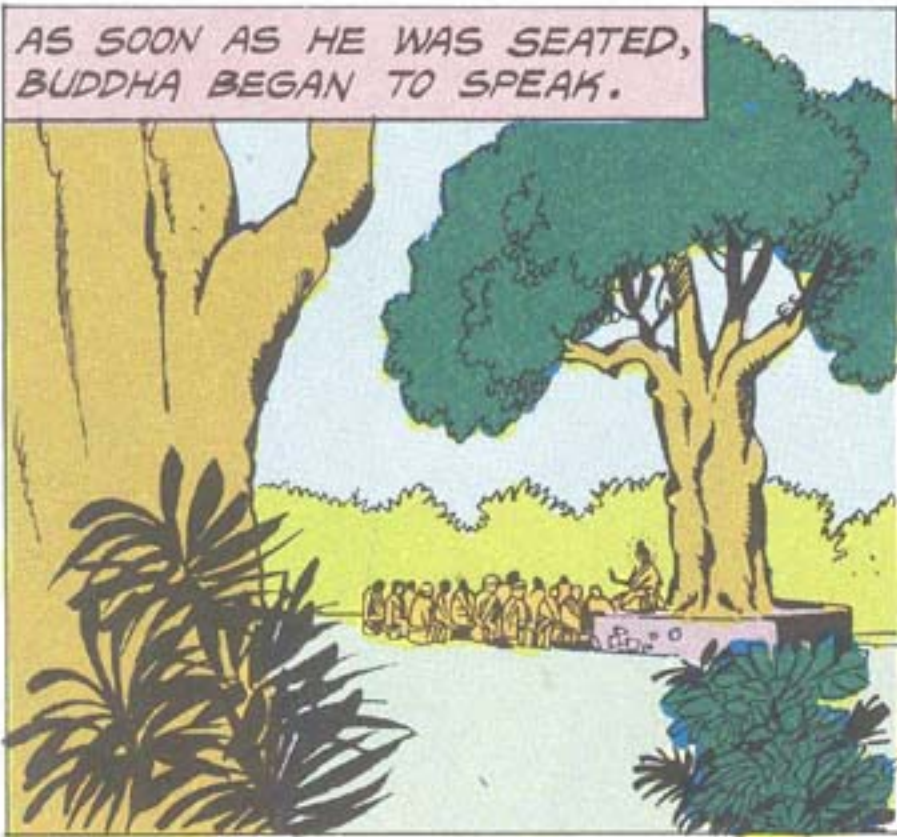
HE WASHED HIS HANDS...



...AND WENT BACK TO THE MEETING FEELING REFRESHED.



AS SOON AS HE WAS SEATED, BUDDHA BEGAN TO SPEAK.



THE COWHERD HEARD HIM IN RAPT ATTENTION.



WHEN THE DISCOURSE WAS OVER—



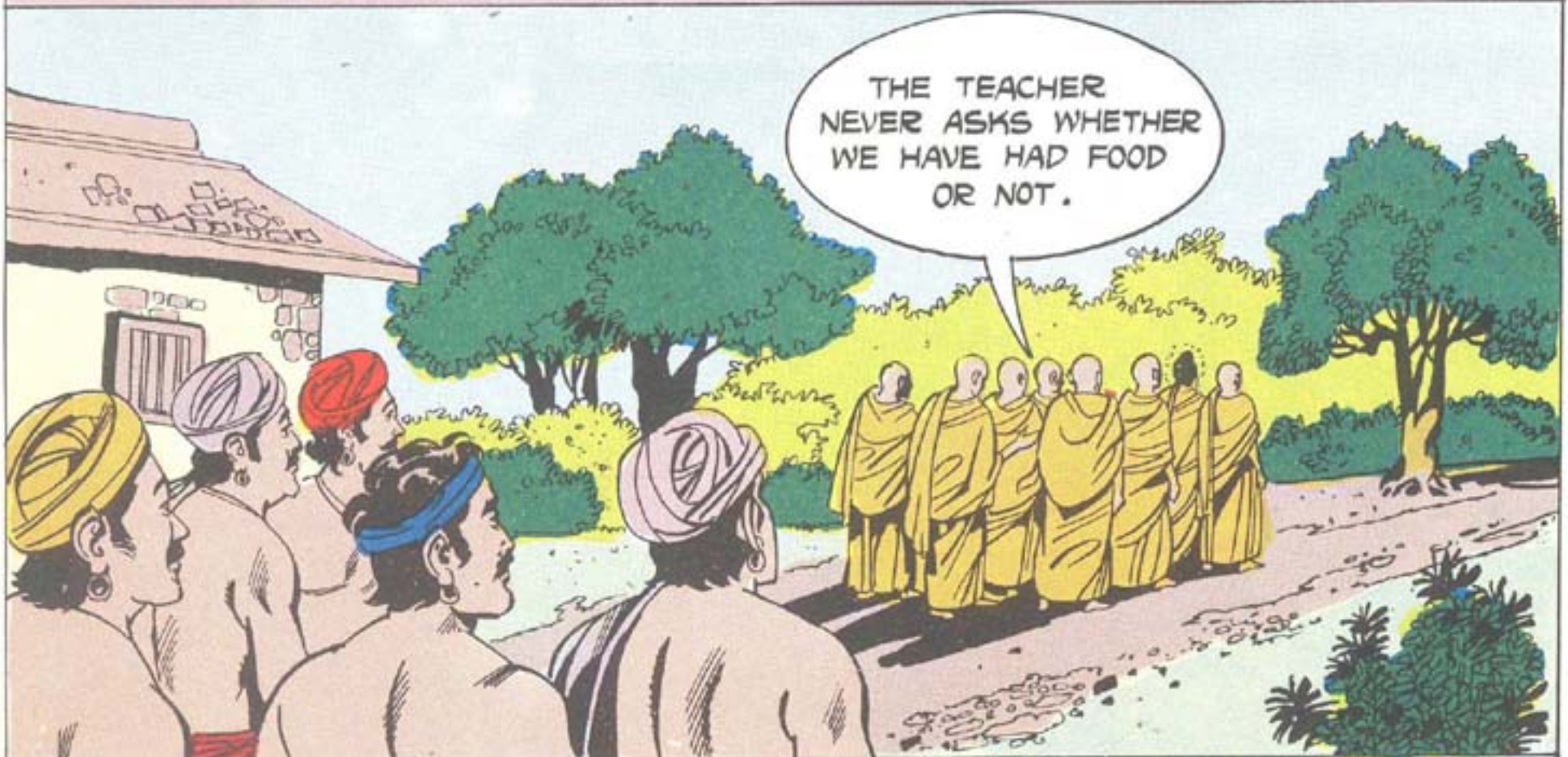
... ADMIT ME TO THE SANGHA.

I WILL, MY CHILD.



AS BUDDHA AND HIS MONKS TOOK LEAVE OF THE VILLAGERS AND WALKED ON—

THE TEACHER NEVER ASKS WHETHER WE HAVE HAD FOOD OR NOT.



BUT
THE FUSS HE
MADE OF THAT
COWHERD.

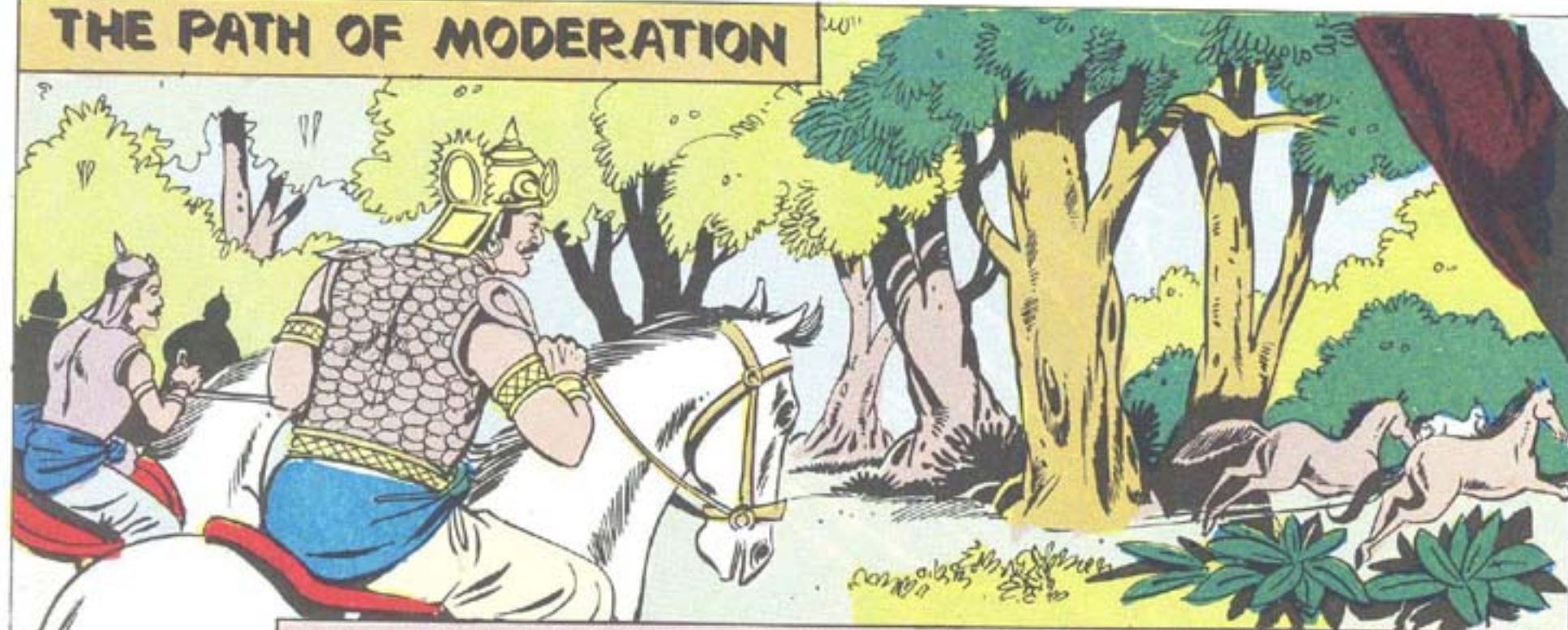
I WENT TO
ALAWI ONLY TO
BRING THE COWHERD
INTO OUR FOLD.

WHEN
I SAW HIM,
I KNEW HE WAS
IN NO FRAME OF
MIND TO BE
RECEPTIVE TO MY
TEACHING.

YOU CANNOT TEACH
A PERSON WHO IS TROUBLED
BY HUNGER.

THE MONKS UNDERSTOOD AND THEY WALKED ON.

THE PATH OF MODERATION



THE CHASE WAS THE FAVOURITE SPORT OF PRASENAJIT OF KOSALA. BUT OF LATE HE HAD PUT ON TOO MUCH WEIGHT AND DID NOT SEEM TO ENJOY THE SPORT AS HE USED TO WHEN HE WAS TRIM.

ALL HE WANTED NOW WAS TO GET BACK TO THE PALACE AND FOOD.



THE KING ANSWERED HIS NEPHEW'S QUESTION WITH AN ANGRY GLARE.



THE YOUTH QUIETLY OBEYED THE COMMAND.



WHEN THEY HEARD THE BLAST OF THE HORN, THE KING'S MEN WERE NOT TOO HAPPY. BUT WE'VE JUST ENTERED THE FOREST.

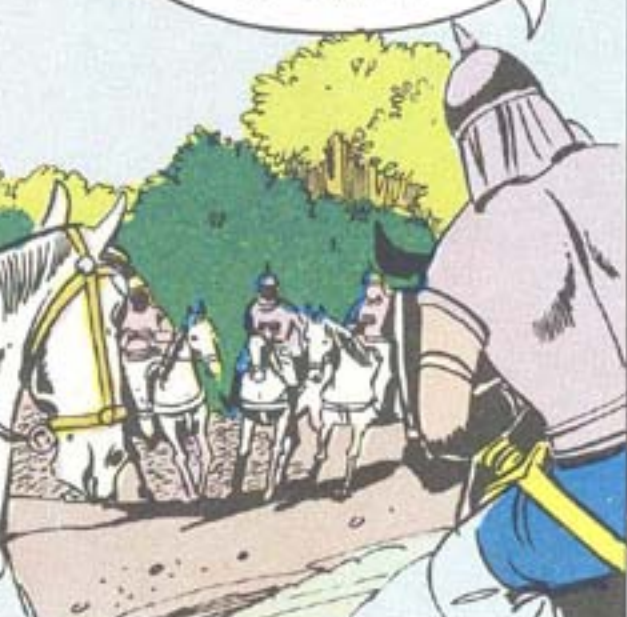


THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN.

THESE DAYS OUR KING SEEMS TO TIRE VERY EASILY.

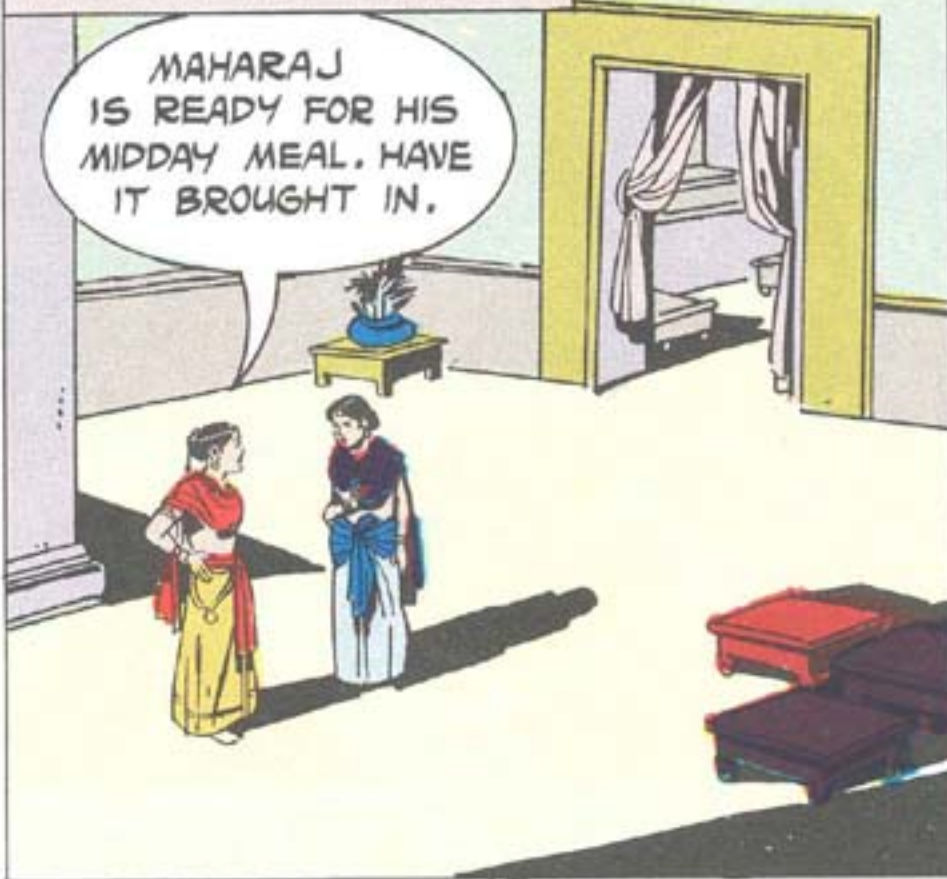


YOU ARE RIGHT. HE NO LONGER HAS THE STAMINA HE USED TO HAVE.



LATER AT THE PALACE—

MAHARAJ
IS READY FOR HIS
MIDDAY MEAL. HAVE
IT BROUGHT IN.



THE QUEEN HERSELF SERVED THE KING
THE FIRST COURSE.

HOW WAS THE
CHASE?

WE
WILL TALK
ABOUT THAT
LATER.



RIGHT,
NOW, I CAN
ONLY THINK AND
TALK ABOUT
FOOD.



MAHARAJ?



YES?

HAVE
YOU COME TO
A DECISION
REGARDING THE
MARRIAGE?

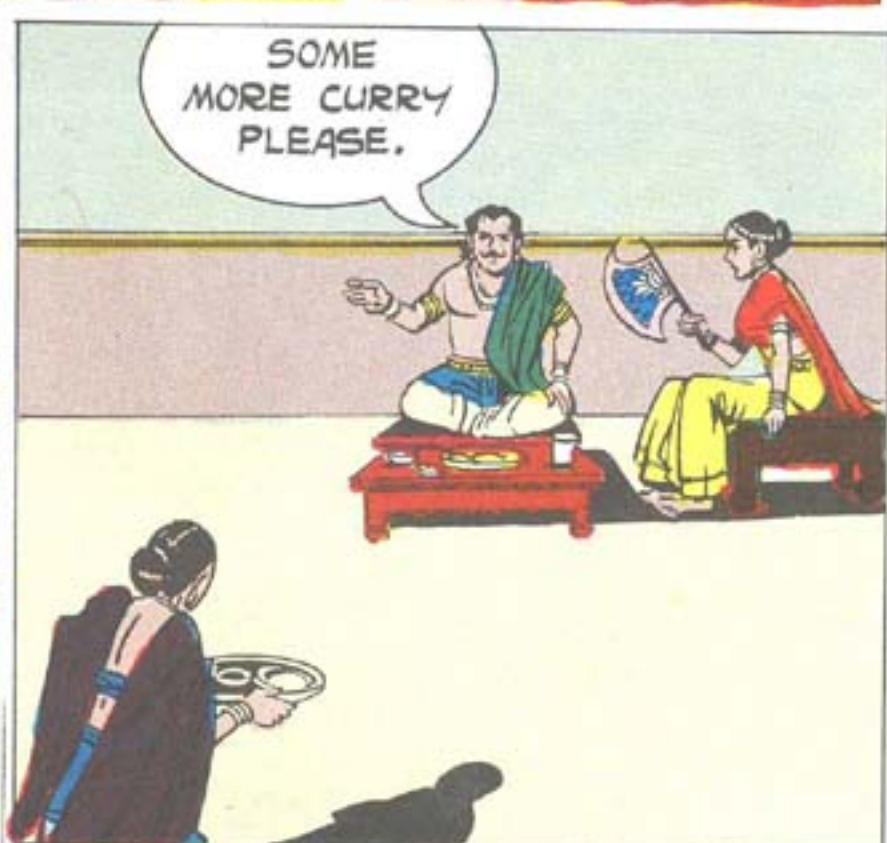
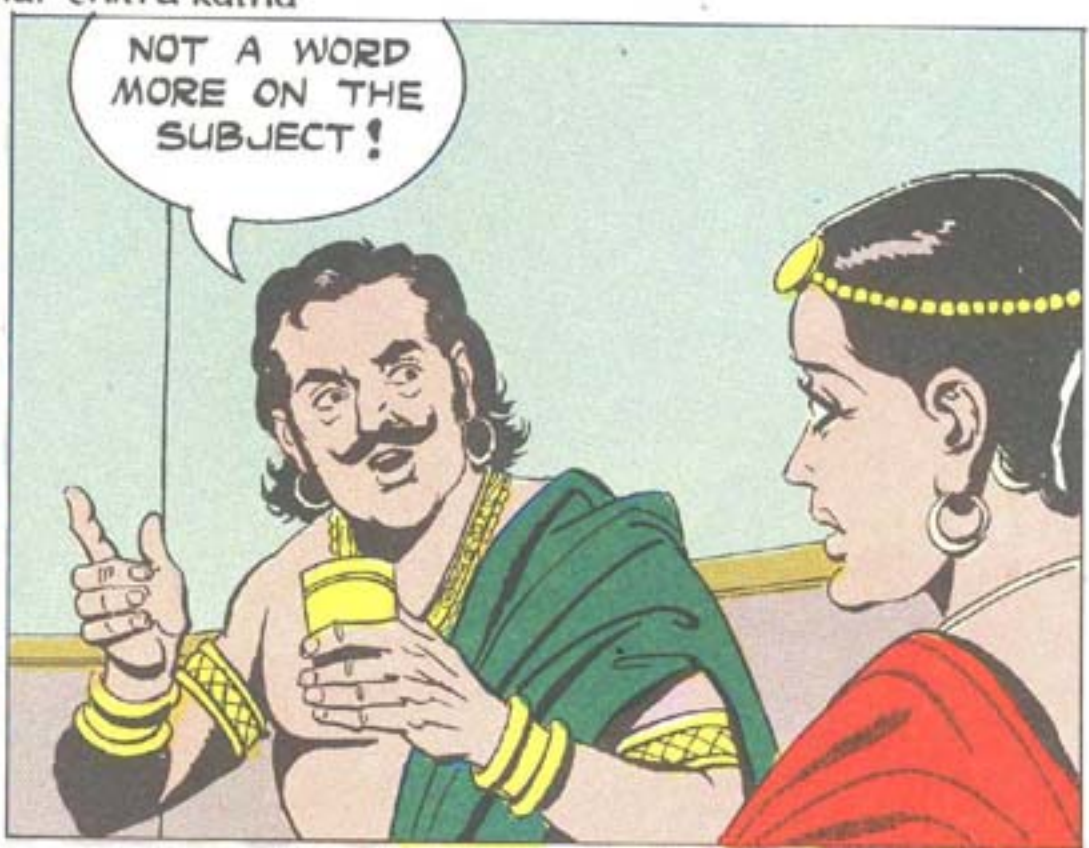
THE
MARRIAGE OF
VAJIRA?



YES. TO
SUDARSHANA...

DON'T MENTION
HIS NAME TO
ME.





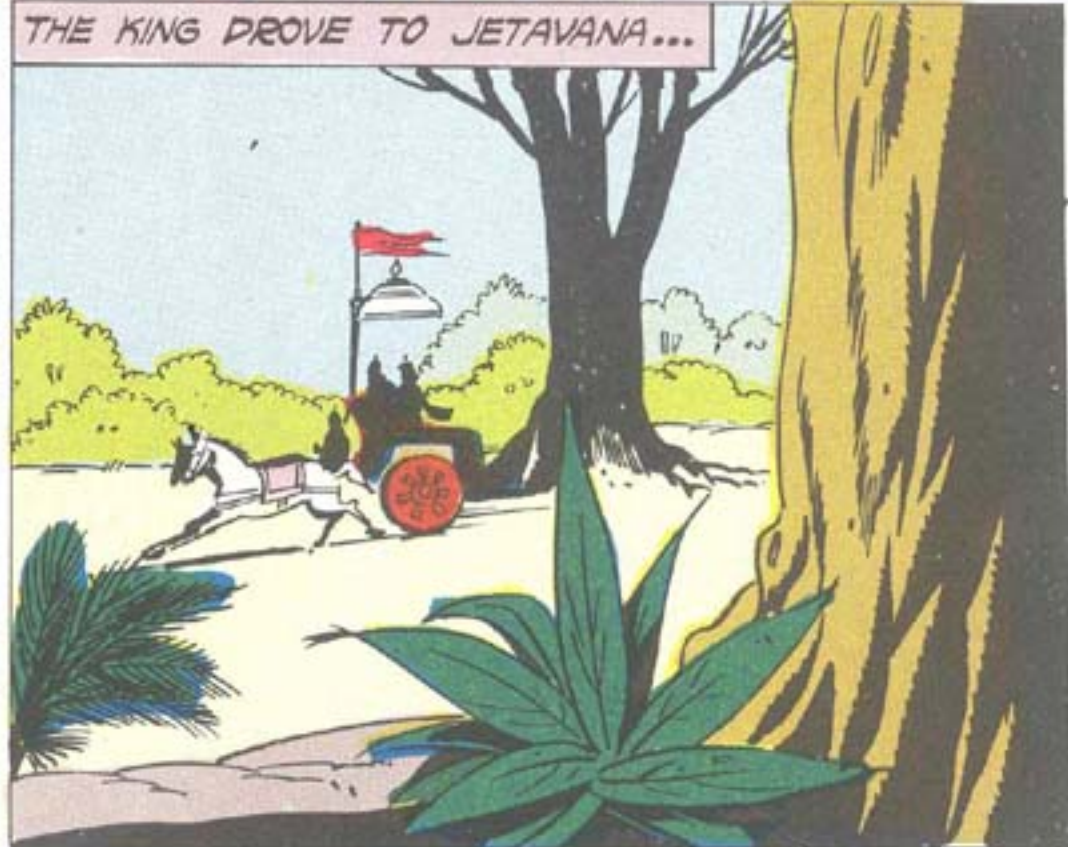
JUST THEN SUDARSHANA WALKED IN.

MAHARAJ, PEOPLE HAVE ASSEMBLED AT JETAVANA. BUDDHA WILL BEGIN HIS DISCOURSE ANY MOMENT.

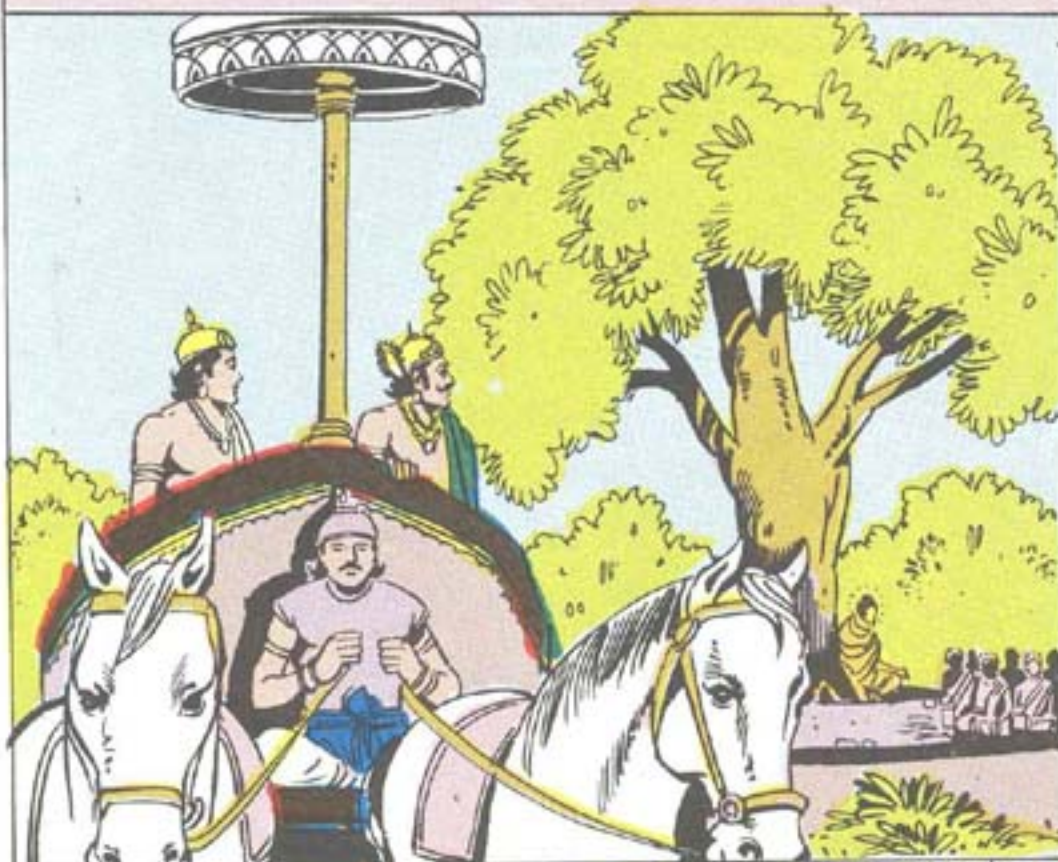
I AM READY.



THE KING DROVE TO JETAVANA...



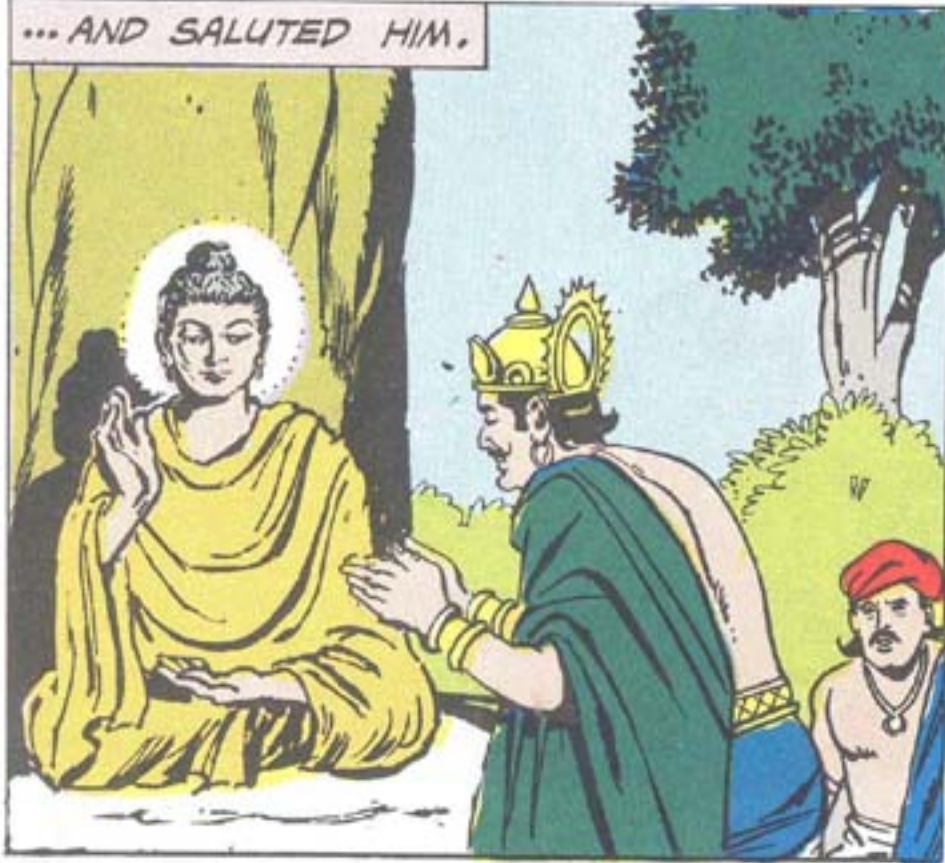
...STOPPED THE CHARIOT A FEW YARDS AWAY FROM THE PLACE WHERE THE ENLIGHTENED ONE SAT...



...WALKED UP TO HIM...



... AND SALUTED HIM.



AS SOON AS PRASENAJIT WAS SEATED, BUDDHA BEGAN HIS DISCOURSE.



THE KING FELT DROWSY AFTER THE HEAVY MEAL.



HE HAD TO KEEP PINCHING HIMSELF FROM TIME TO TIME...



... TO KEEP AWAKE.

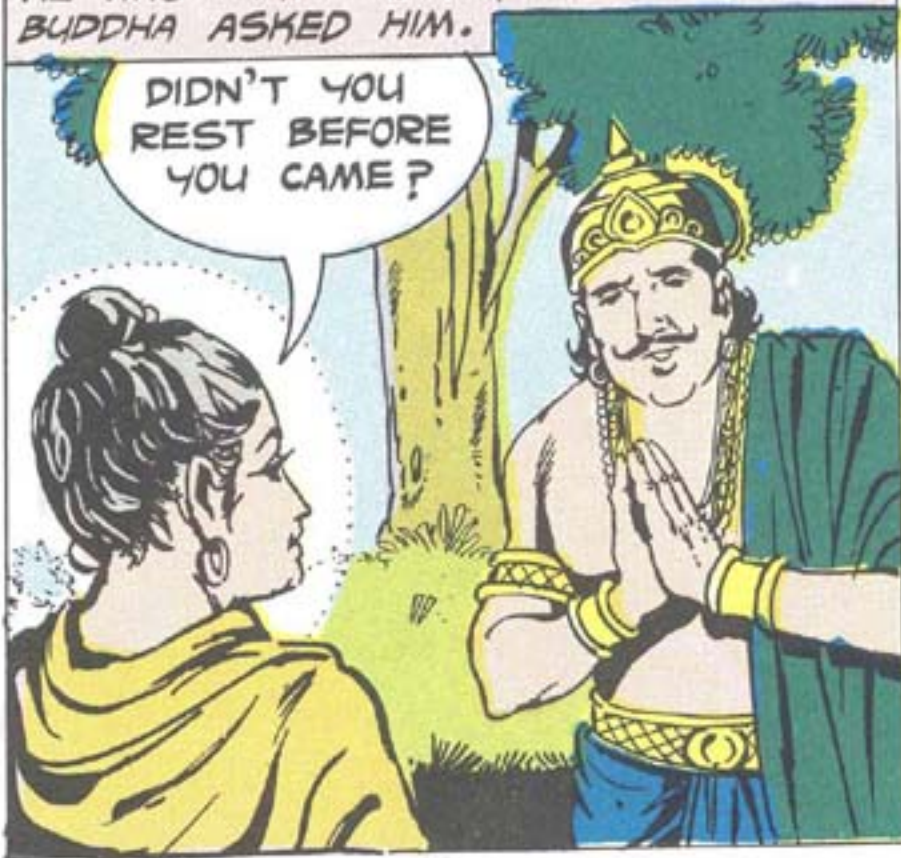


AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCOURSE, PRASENAJIT WAS THE LAST TO GO UP TO THE TEACHER.



HE WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE QUESTION BUDDHA ASKED HIM.

DIDN'T YOU REST BEFORE YOU CAME?



REVERED ONE, I... I ALWAYS FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE AFTER A MEAL.



YOU MUST BE OVEREATING THEN.

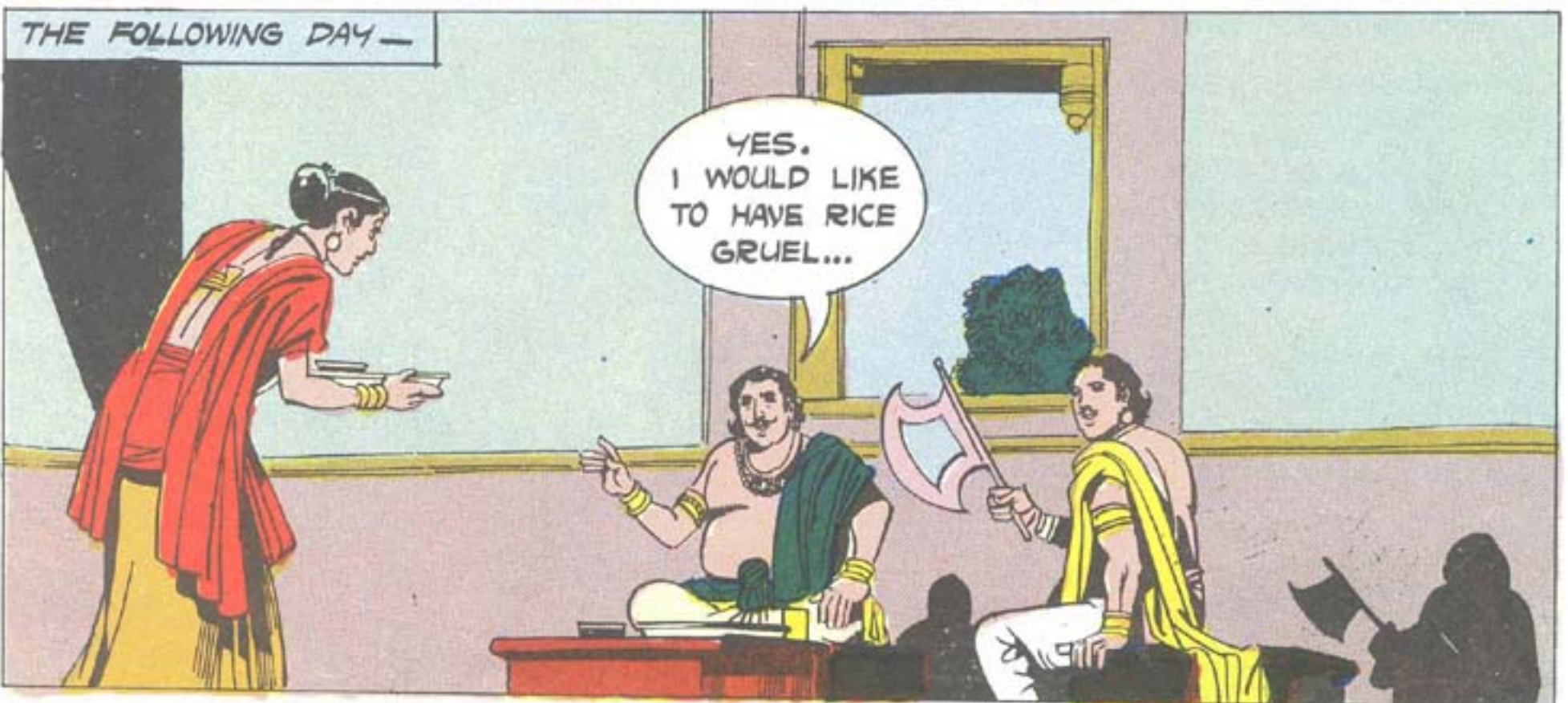
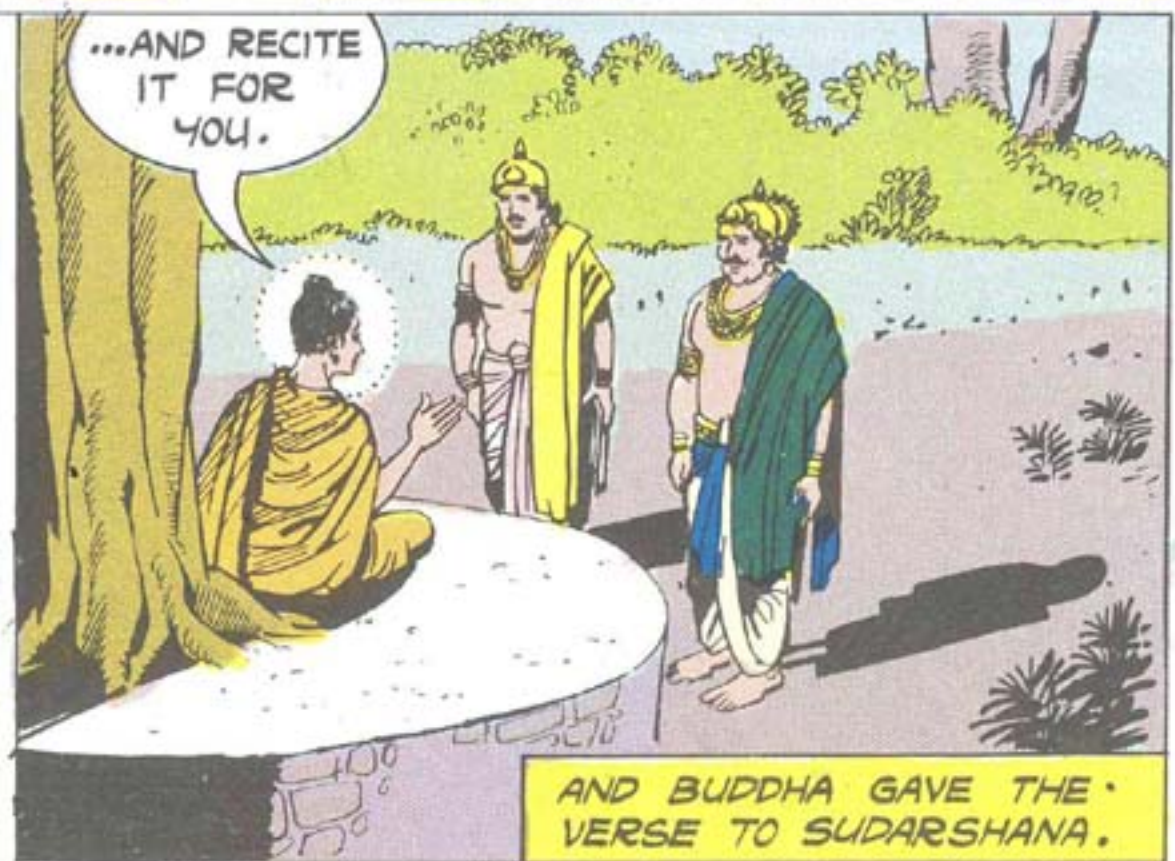
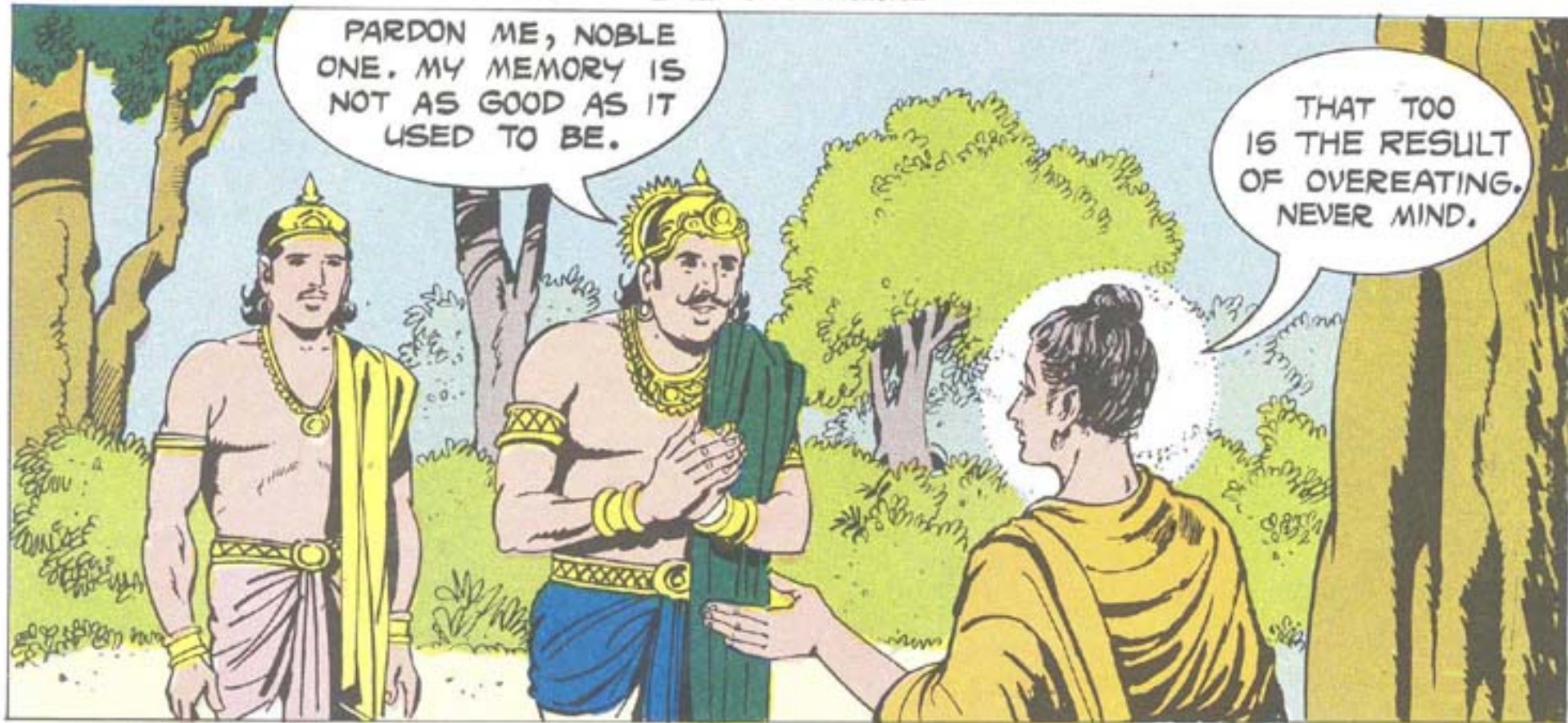
A MAN WHO EATS TOO MUCH, SPENDS HIS TIME IN SLEEP AND LIES AND ROLLS ABOUT LIKE AN OVERFED HOG, WILL NEVER BE FREED FROM THE CHAIN OF REBIRTH.



AS THE KING LOWERED HIS HEAD IN SHAME—

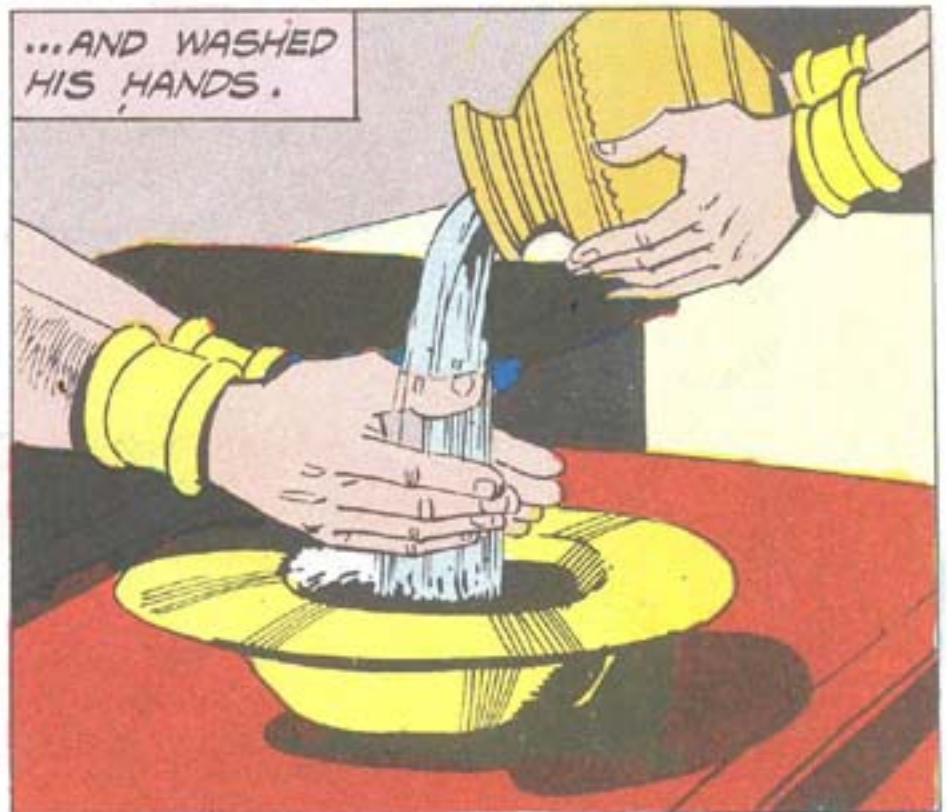
YOU HAVE TO OBSERVE MODERATION IN EATING. MEMORIZE THIS VERSE AND SAY IT TO YOURSELF WHEN YOU SIT DOWN TO EAT.







JUST THEN SUDARSHANA'S VOICE GENTLY REMINDED HIM—



AS SUDARSHANA CONCLUDED THE VERSE, THE KING DROPPED THE MORSEL OF FOOD...

EVERY TIME HE SAT DOWN TO A MEAL, SUDARSHANA WOULD BE READY...



...TO SOUND THE WARNING VERSE.



A FEW WEEKS LATER —

NO! NOT
A MORSEL MORE.
I HAVE HAD
ENOUGH.

?!



MAHARAJ, I DIDN'T
HAVE TO RECITE THE
VERSE TODAY!

AREN'T YOU
HAPPY?



OF COURSE, I AM.
ALTHOUGH I HAVE
LOST AN IMPORTANT
ROLE...

DON'T WORRY.
YOU WILL BE
GIVEN A GREATER
RESPONSIBILITY...



... THAT OF
LOOKING AFTER
VAJIRA.

MAHARAJ!



YES. YOU AND
VAJIRA HAVE MY
BLESSINGS.



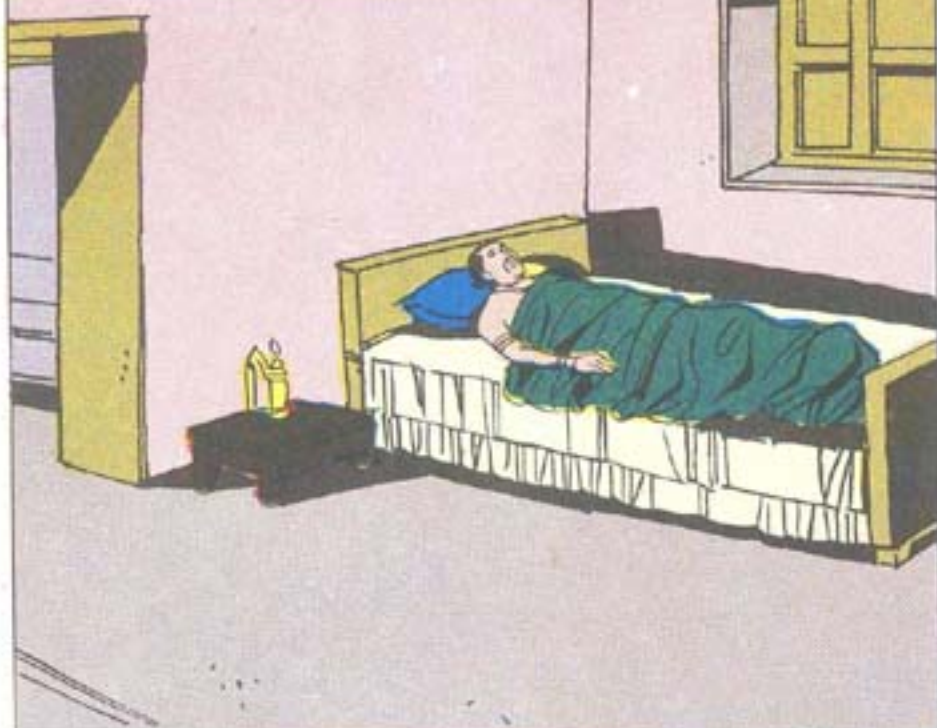
LATER, IN THE COURSE OF A CHASE —



BACK AT THE PALACE —

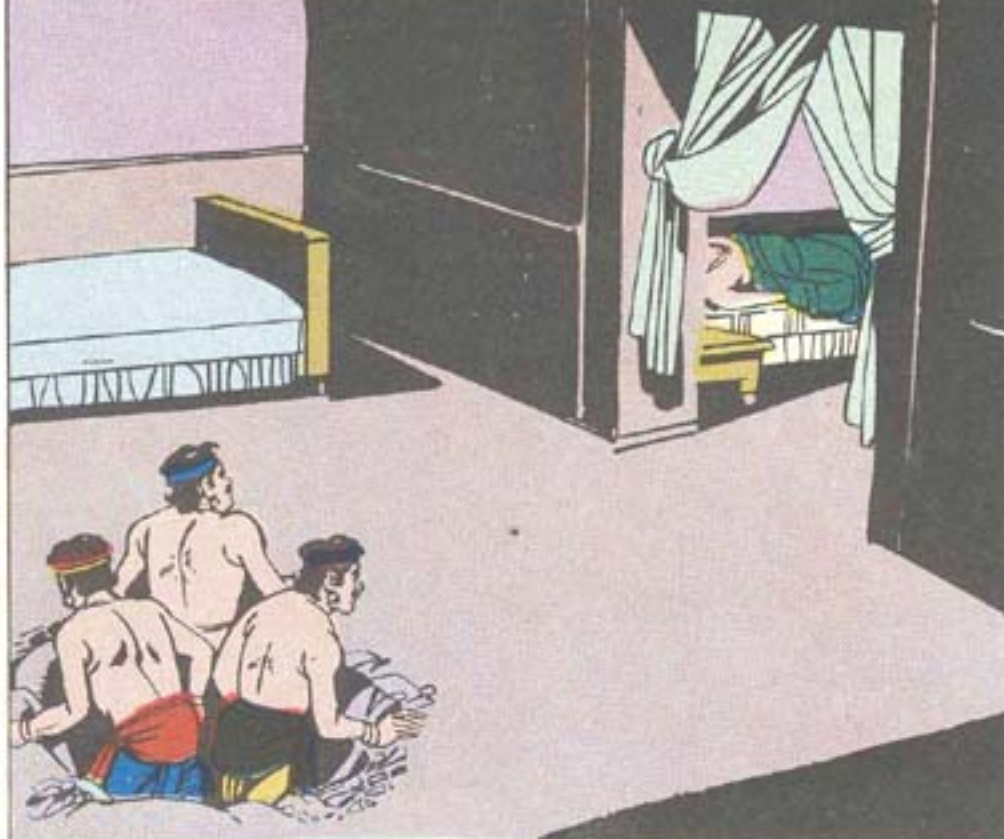


THE WITNESS



DHANANJAYA, A WEALTHY CITIZEN OF SHRAVASTI, LAY FAST ASLEEP...

...WHEN BURGLARS BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE THROUGH A TUNNEL THEY HAD DUG.

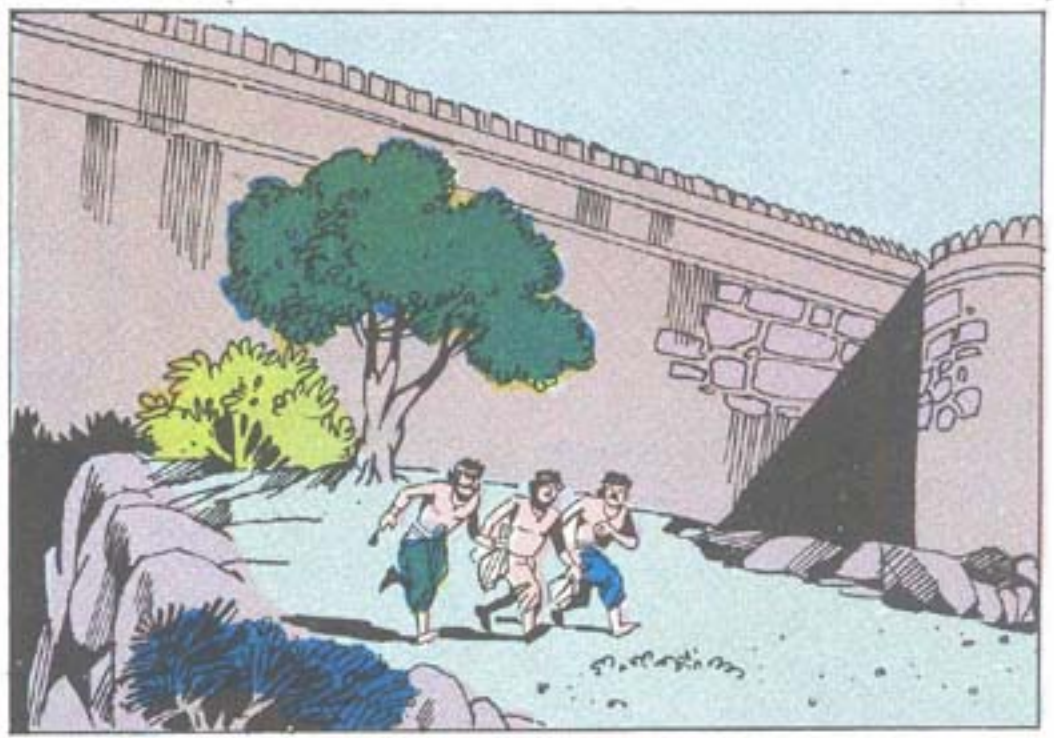


AFTER STEALING WHAT VALUABLES THEY COULD LAY THEIR HANDS ON, THEY LEFT THROUGH THE SAME TUNNEL.



AS SOON AS THEY CLAMBERED OUT AT THE OTHER END, THEY SAW THE KOTWAL.

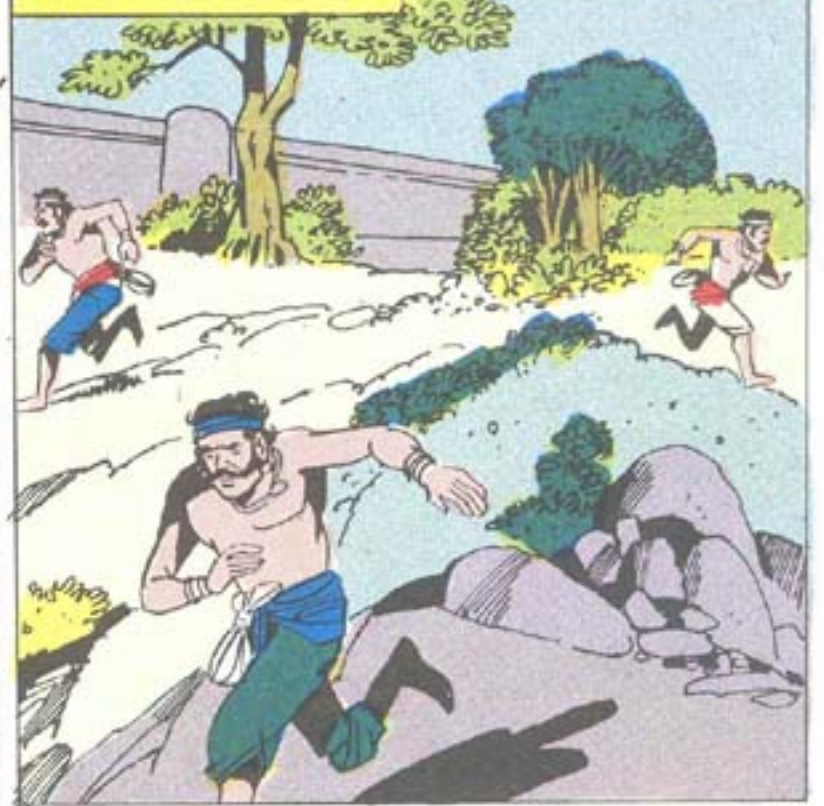




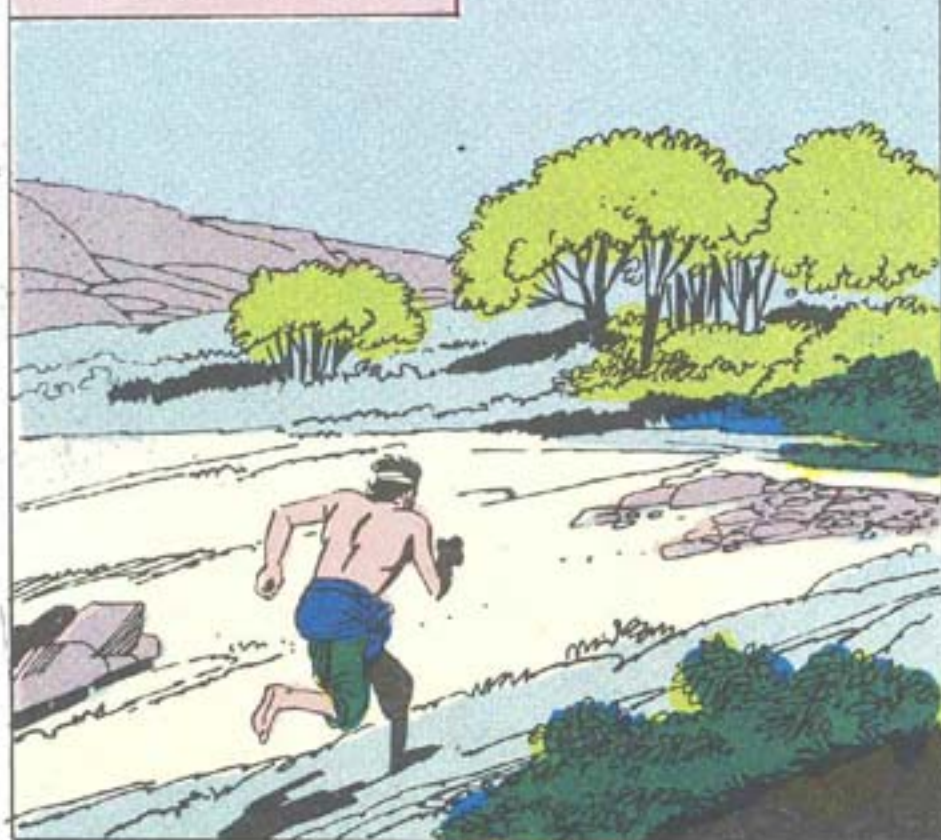
THEY QUICKLY SHARED OUT THE BOOTY...



...TIED THEIR BAGS TO THEIR WAISTS AND DISPERSED.



AS ONE OF THE THIEVES RAN ACROSS A PADDY FIELD...



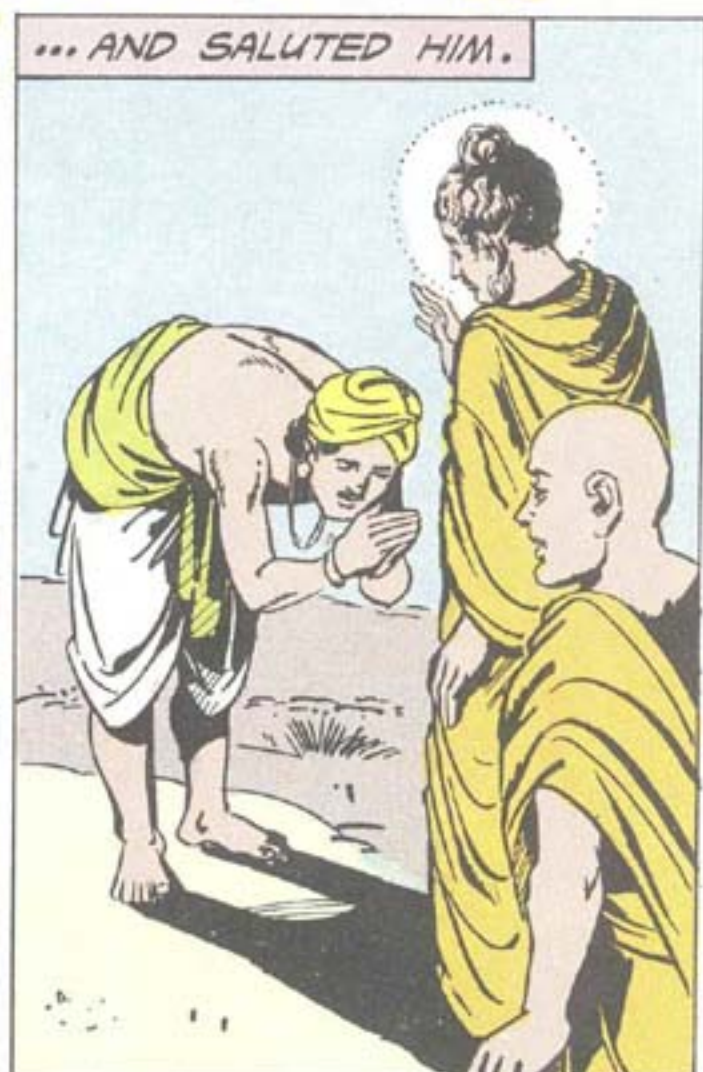
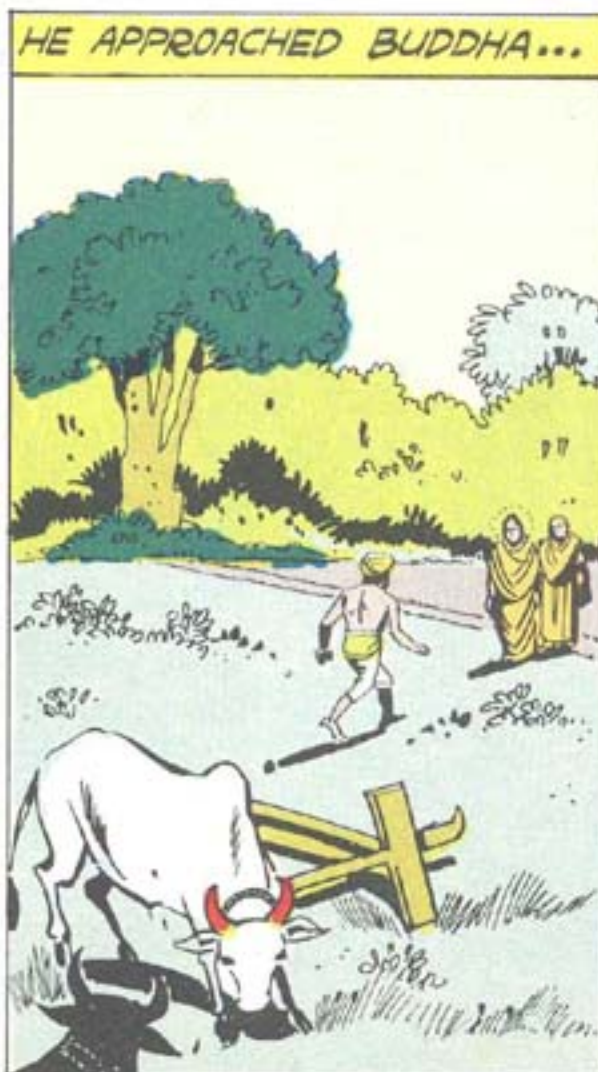
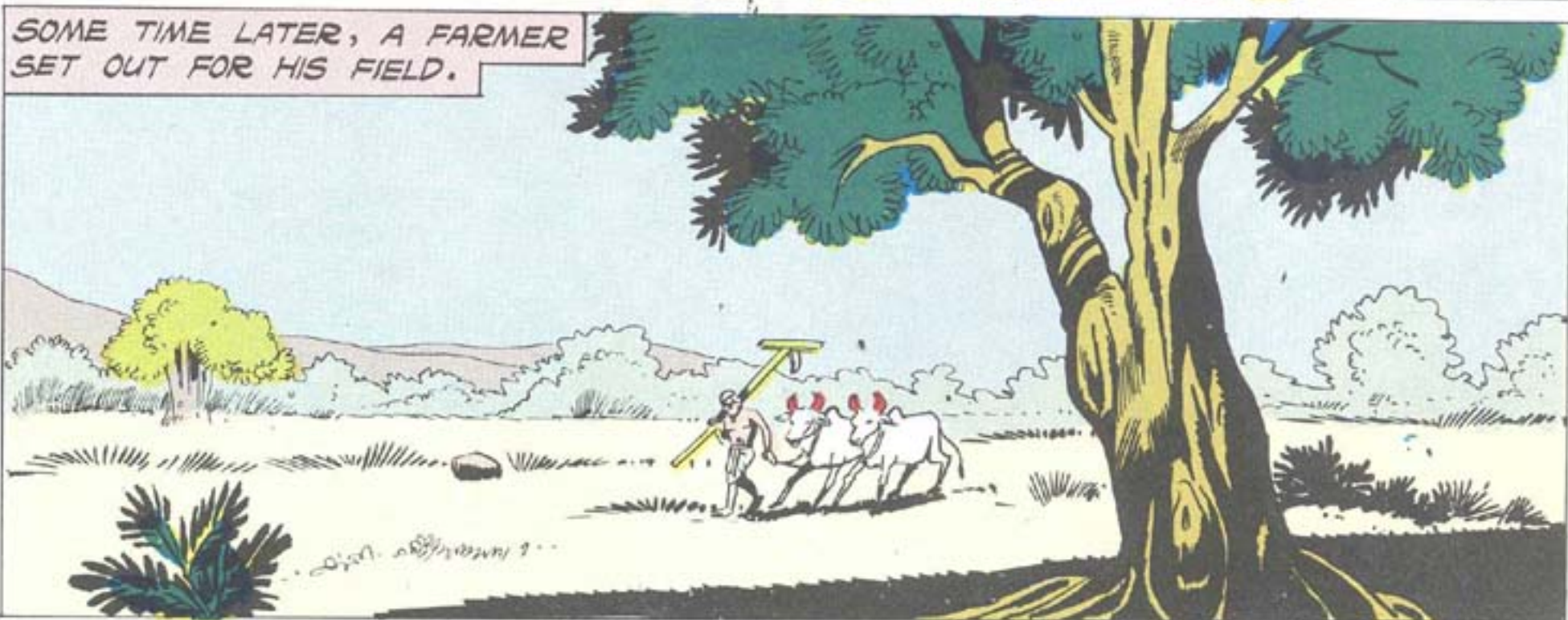
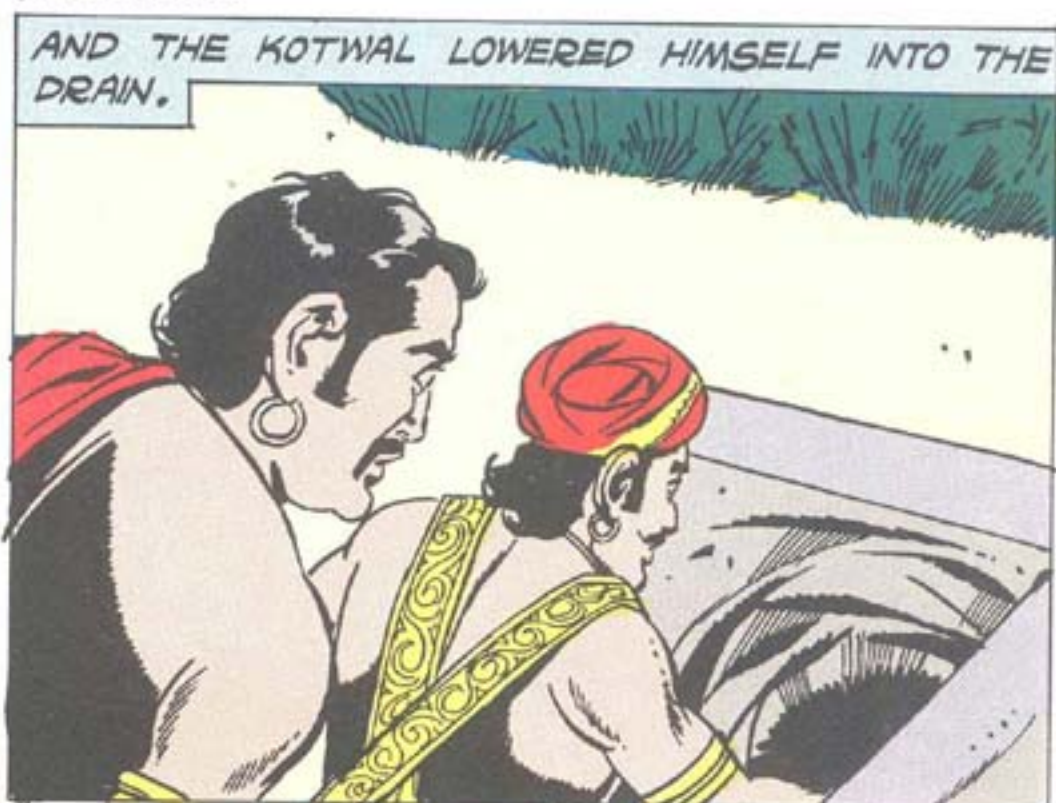
...HIS BAG FELL OFF...



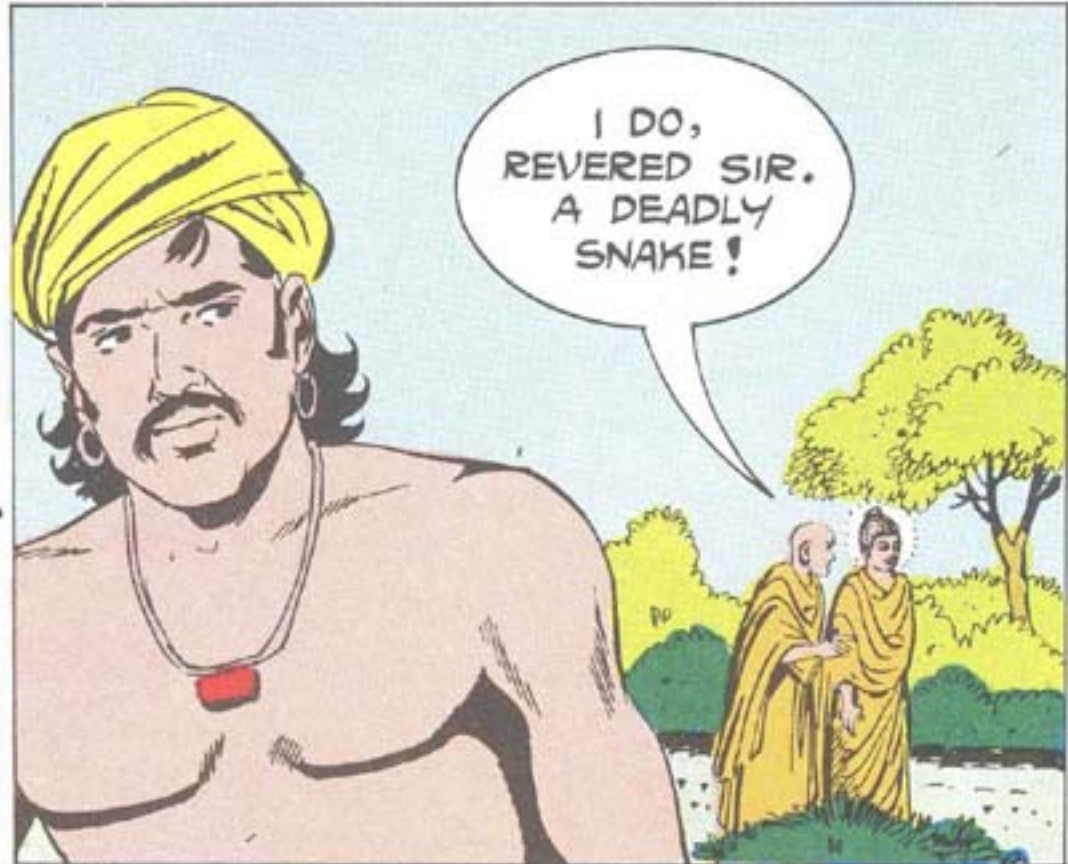
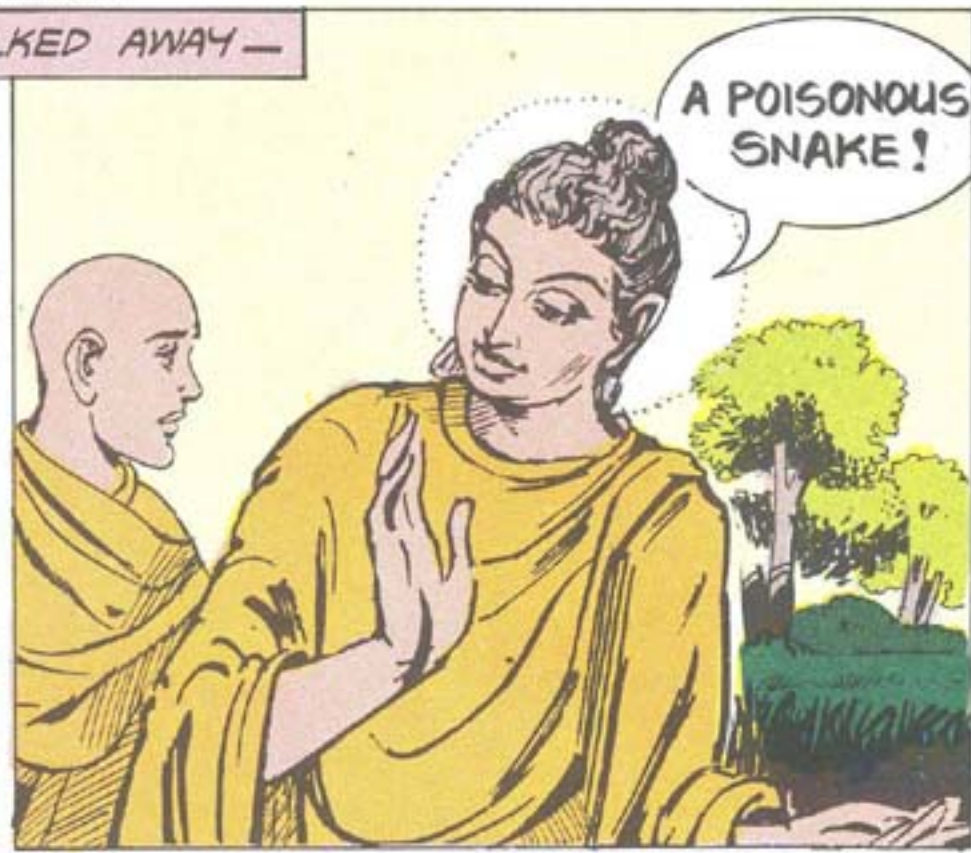
...BUT HE DID NOT NOTICE IT IN HIS HURRY TO GET AWAY.

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE DHANANJAYA'S HOUSE —

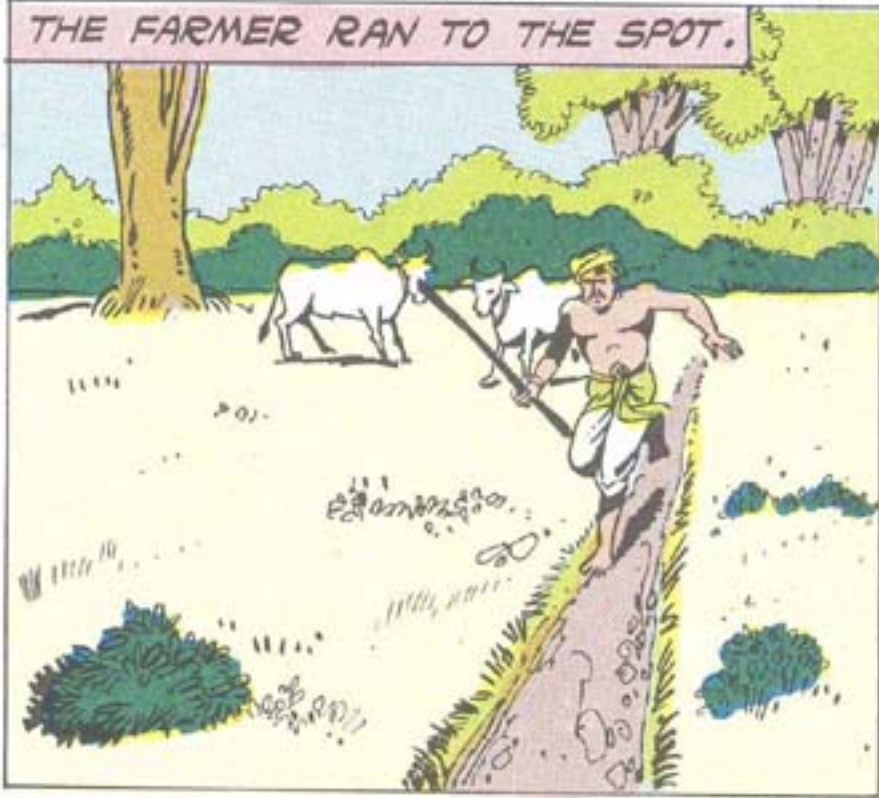




AS HE WALKED AWAY—



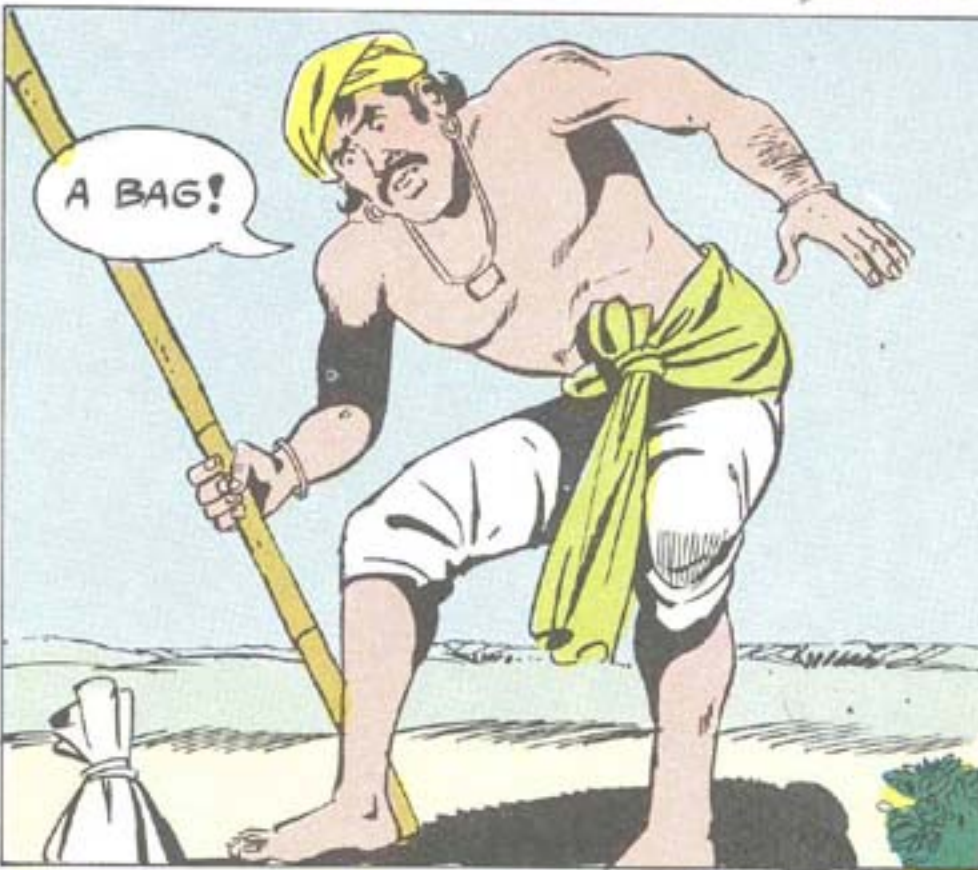
THE FARMER RAN TO THE SPOT.



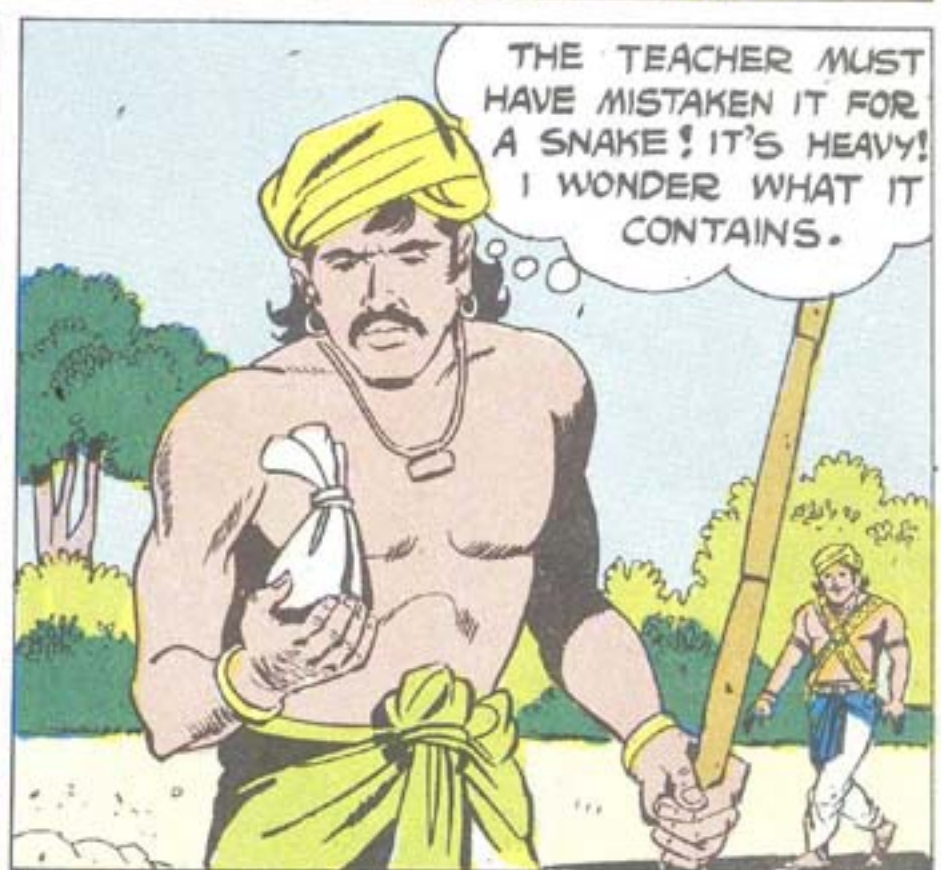
I SEE
NO SNAKE
HERE!



A BAG!



THE TEACHER MUST
HAVE MISTAKEN IT FOR
A SNAKE! IT'S HEAVY!
I WONDER WHAT IT
CONTAINS.

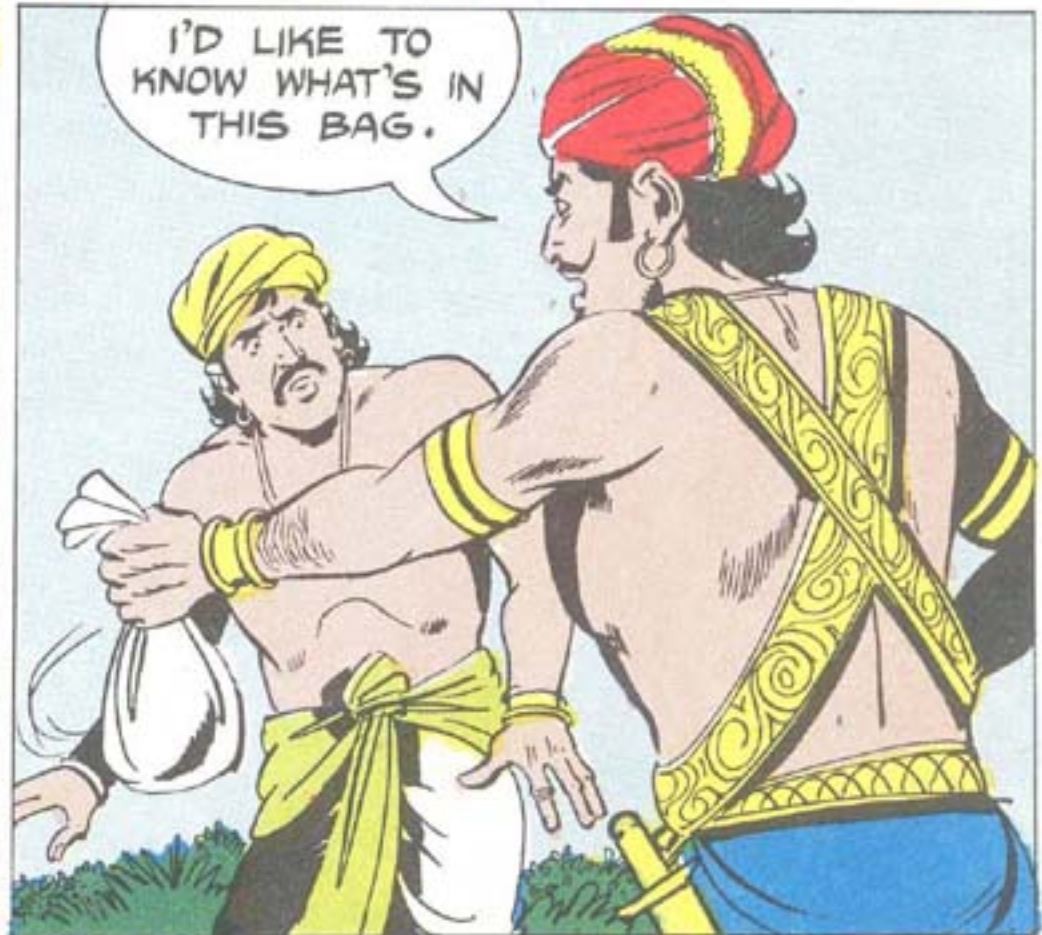


JUST THEN THE KOTWAL APPEARED ON
THE SCENE.

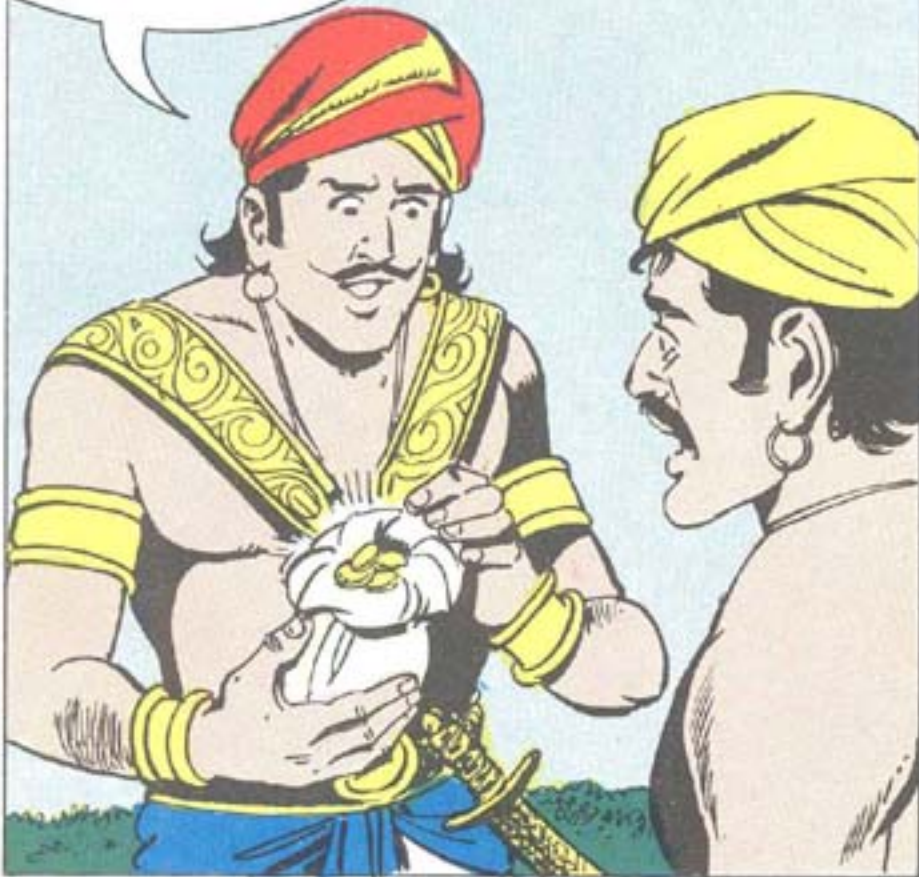
WHAT'S
THAT IN YOUR
HAND?



I'D LIKE TO
KNOW WHAT'S IN
THIS BAG.



GOLD ! JUST AS
I SUSPECTED !



YOU
THIEF !

THIEF ?
I...



I... I
ONLY...

NOT
A WORD FROM
YOU !



YOU CAN
DO ALL THE
EXPLAINING YOU
WANT TO THE
KING.



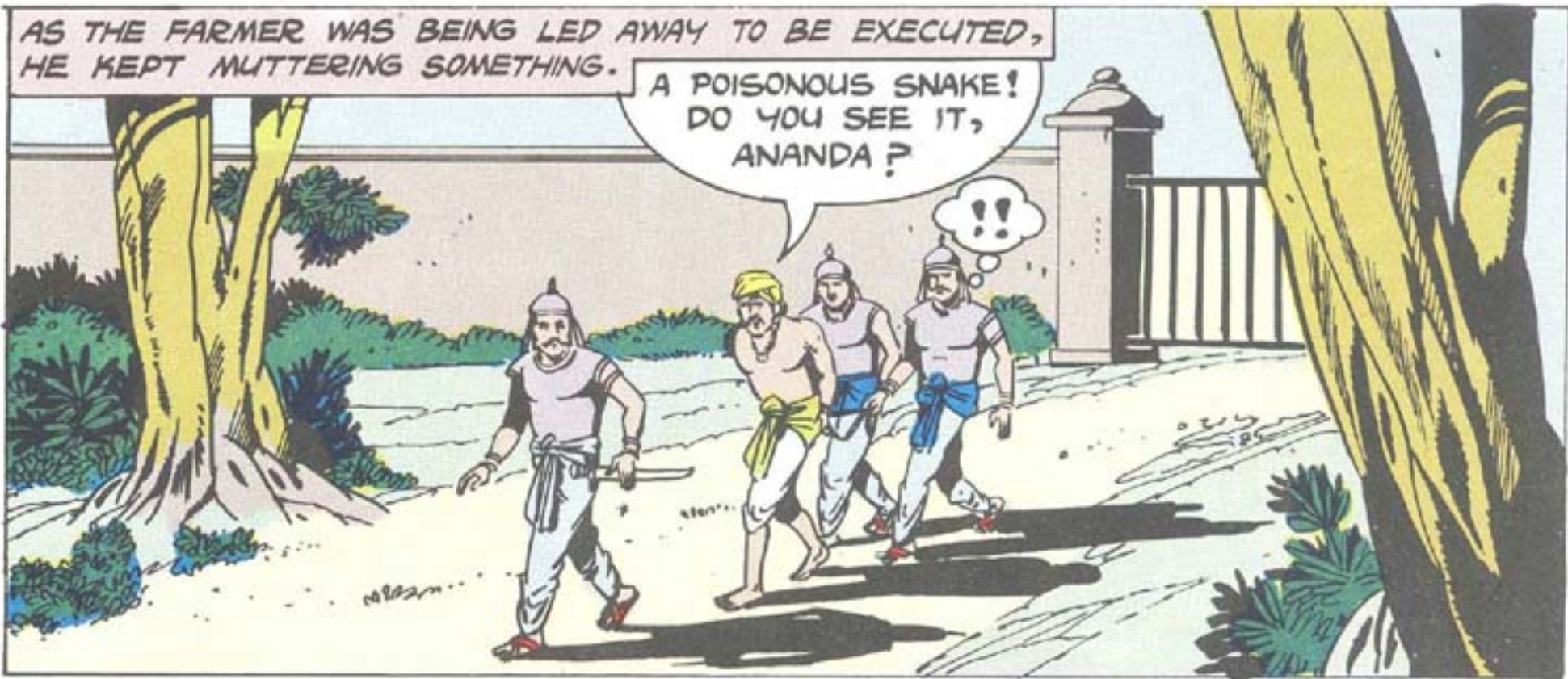
BUT THE KING DID NOT GIVE HIM
A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN EITHER.

YOU SHALL BE
PUT TO DEATH
FOR YOUR
CRIME.



AS THE FARMER WAS BEING LED AWAY TO BE EXECUTED, HE KEPT MUTTERING SOMETHING.

A POISONOUS SNAKE!
DO YOU SEE IT,
ANANDA?

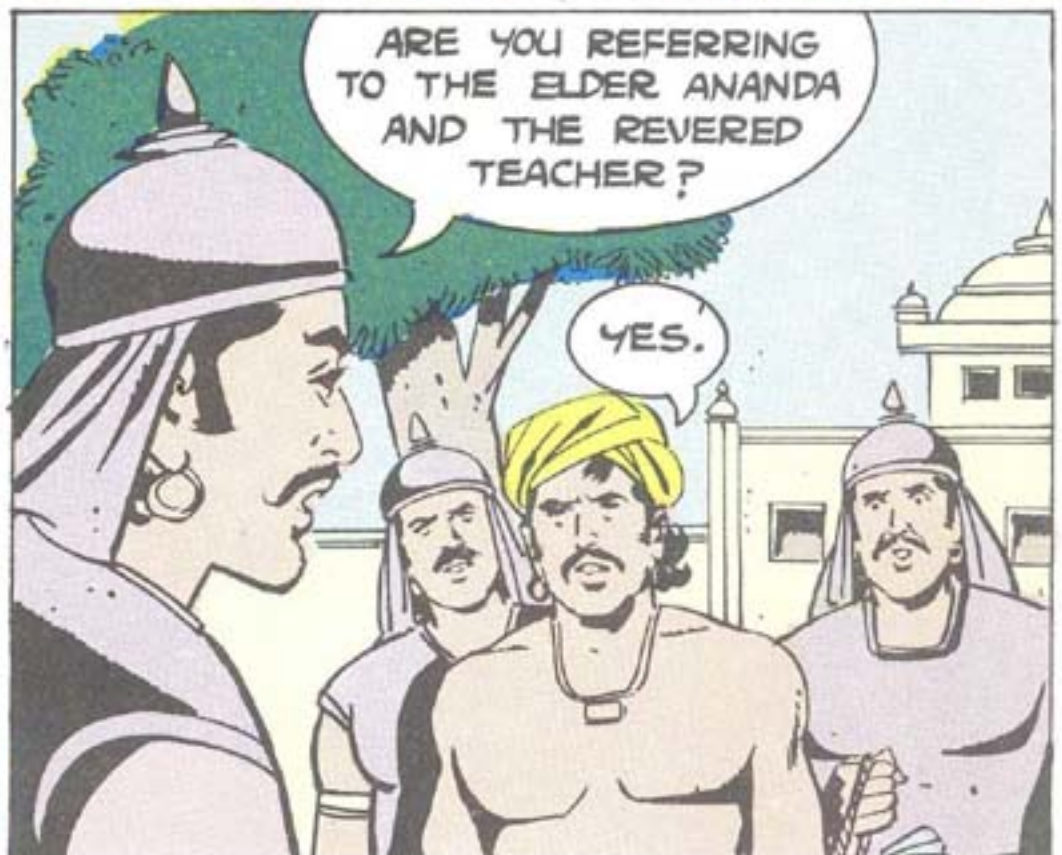


I DO, REVERED
SIR. A DEADLY
SNAKE!



ARE YOU REFERRING
TO THE ELDER ANANDA
AND THE REVERED
TEACHER?

YES.



WHY ARE
YOU REPEATING
THEIR WORDS?

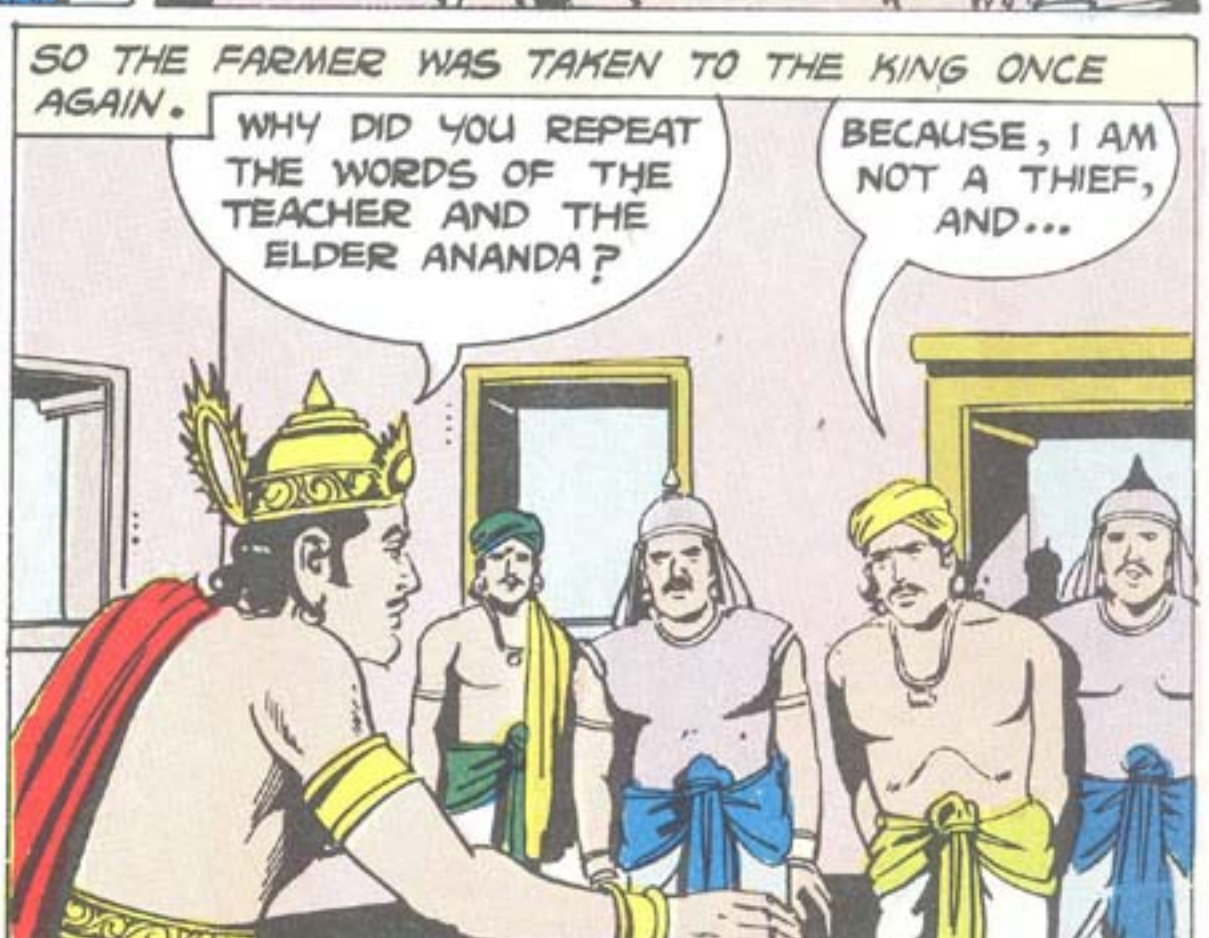
I WILL
EXPLAIN THIS
ONLY TO THE
KING.

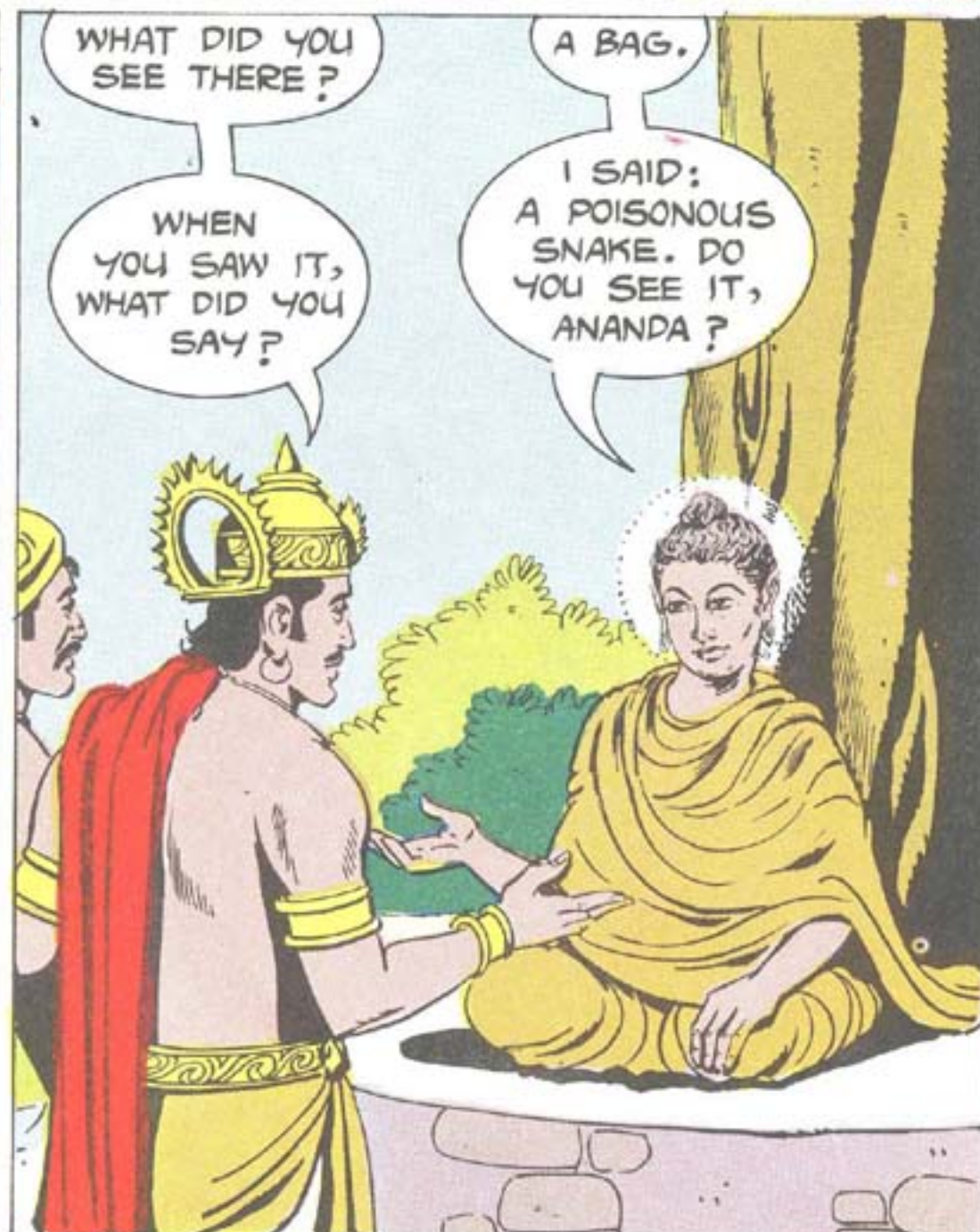


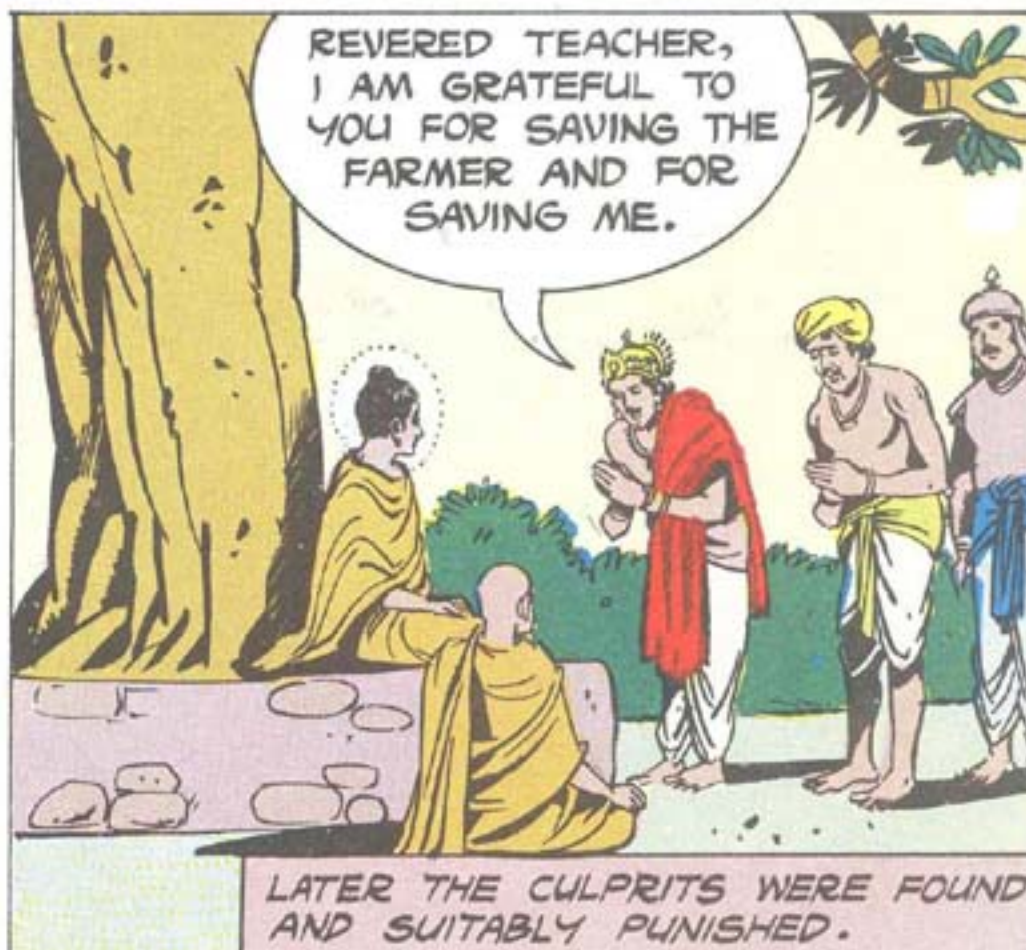
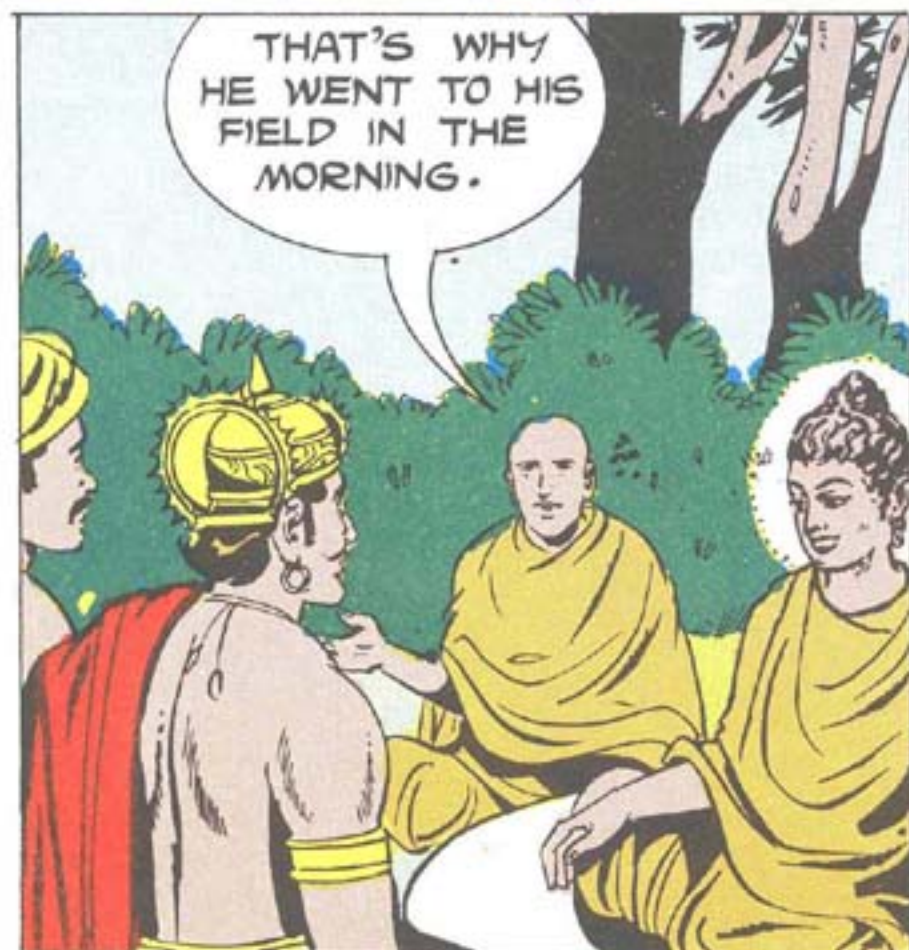
SO THE FARMER WAS TAKEN TO THE KING ONCE
AGAIN.

WHY DID YOU REPEAT
THE WORDS OF THE
TEACHER AND THE
ELDER ANANDA?

BECAUSE, I AM
NOT A THIEF,
AND...



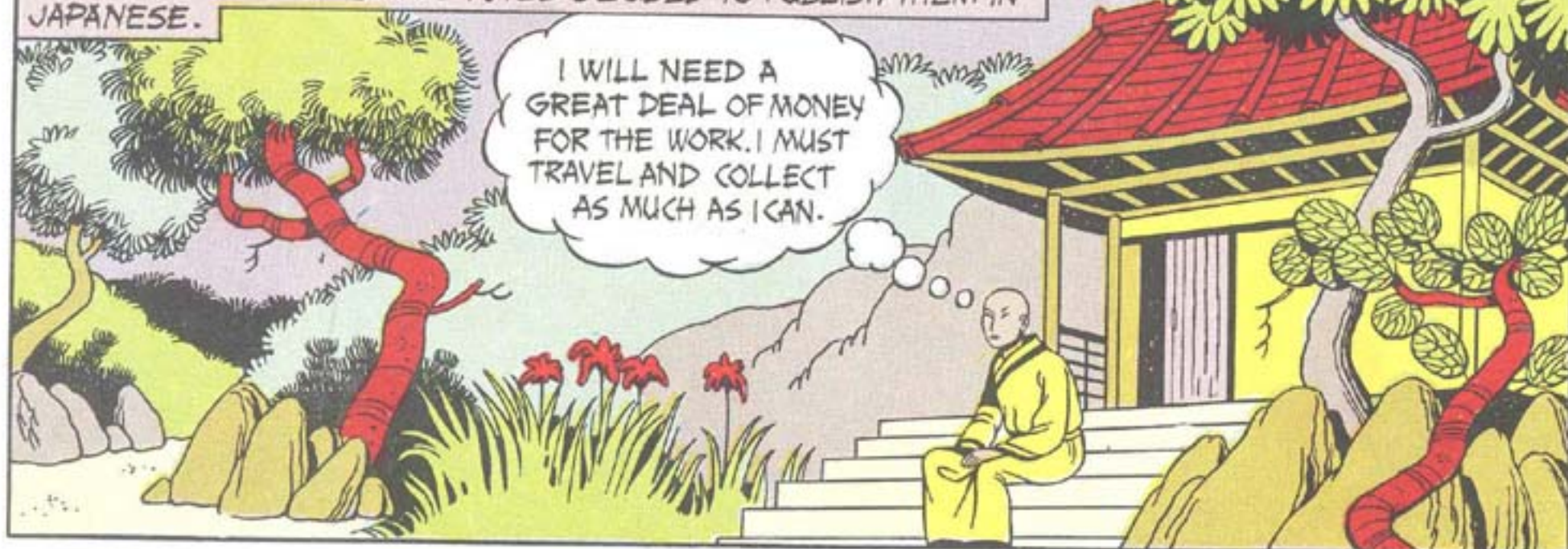




THE THREE EDITIONS OF THE SUTRAS

WHEN THE SUTRAS WERE ONLY AVAILABLE IN CHINESE, TETSUGEN, A YOUNG JAPANESE ZEN DEVOTEE DECIDED TO PUBLISH THEM IN JAPANESE.

I WILL NEED A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY FOR THE WORK. I MUST TRAVEL AND COLLECT AS MUCH AS I CAN.



HE WANDERED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE ACCEPTING WHATEVER THE PEOPLE GAVE HIM.

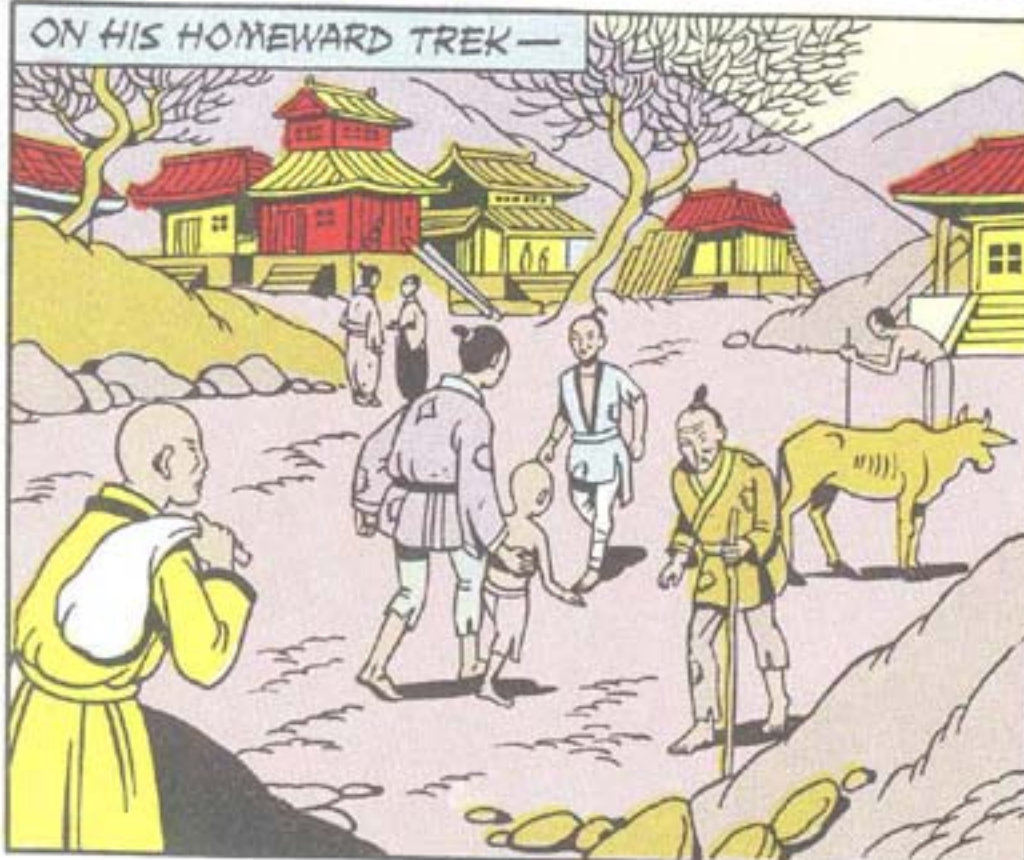


IT TOOK HIM TEN YEARS TO COLLECT THE AMOUNT HE NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT.

AH! NOW I CAN RETURN HOME AND BEGIN WORK.



ON HIS HOMEWARD TREK —



WHAT HAS CAUSED THIS MISERY, BROTHER?

THE RIVER UJI EVER SINCE SHE TOOK AWAY OUR CROPS AND DESTROYED OUR HOMES, IT HAS BEEN LIKE THIS.

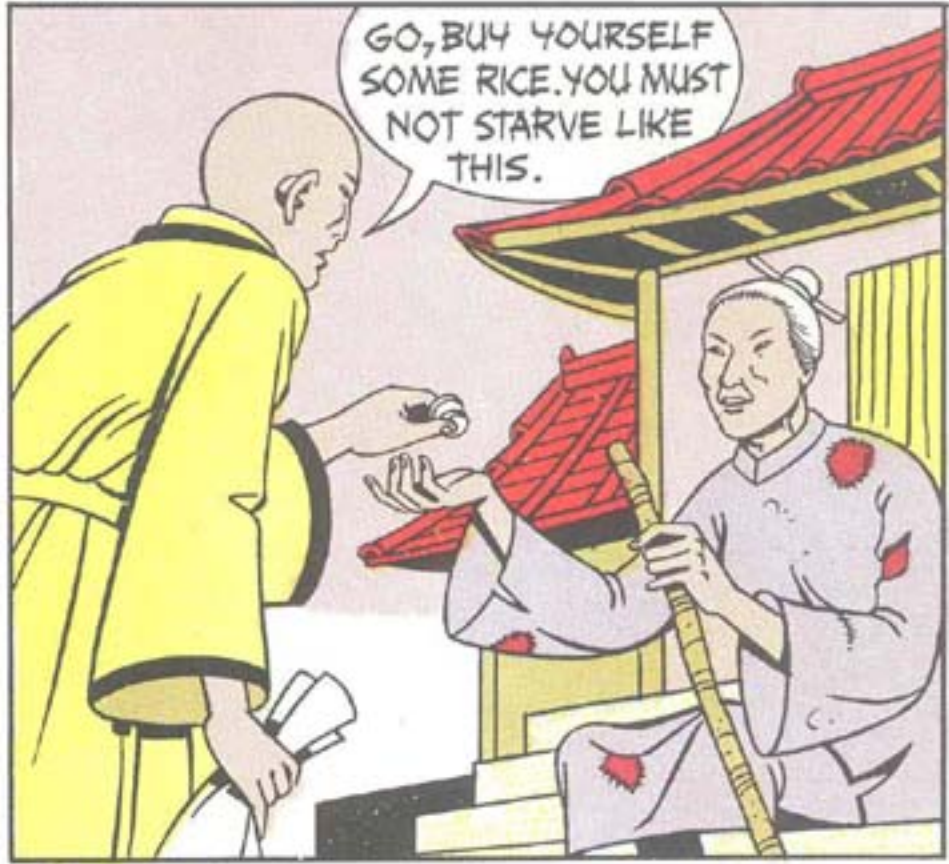


TETSUGEN DIPPED HIS HAND INTO HIS SACK AND —

HERE, BROTHER, YOU COULD BUY SOME FOOD FOR THE FAMILY WITH THIS.

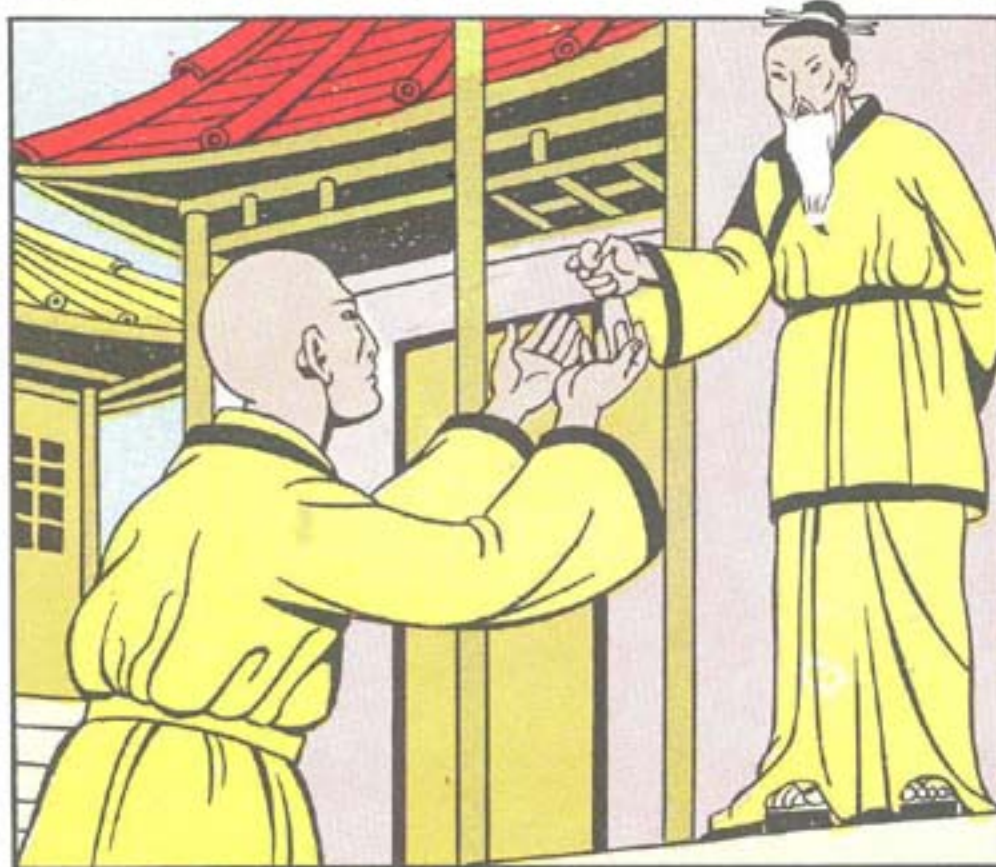


GO, BUY YOURSELF SOME RICE. YOU MUST NOT STARVE LIKE THIS.

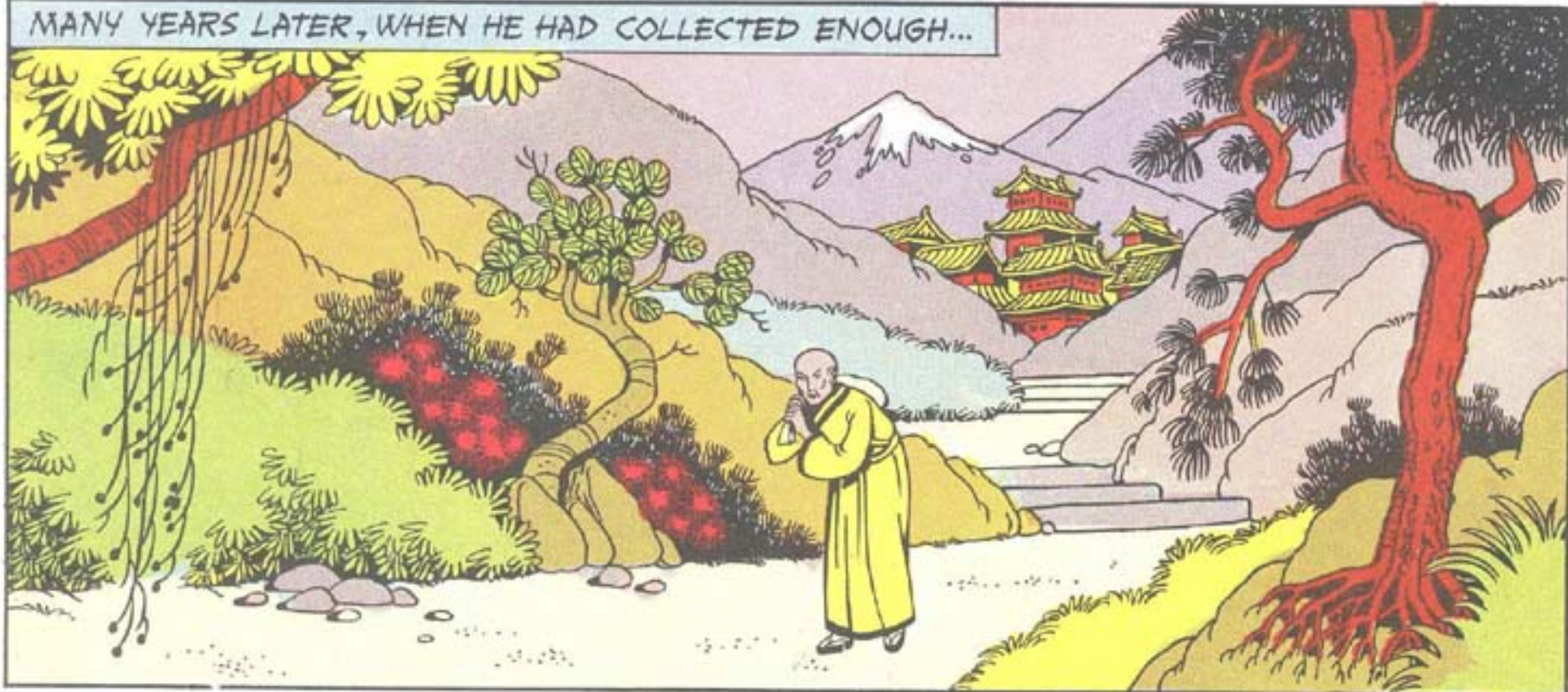


AND SO, IN ONE SINGLE DAY, TETSUGEN DISTRIBUTED THE WEALTH THAT HE HAD TAKEN A WHOLE DECADE TO COLLECT.

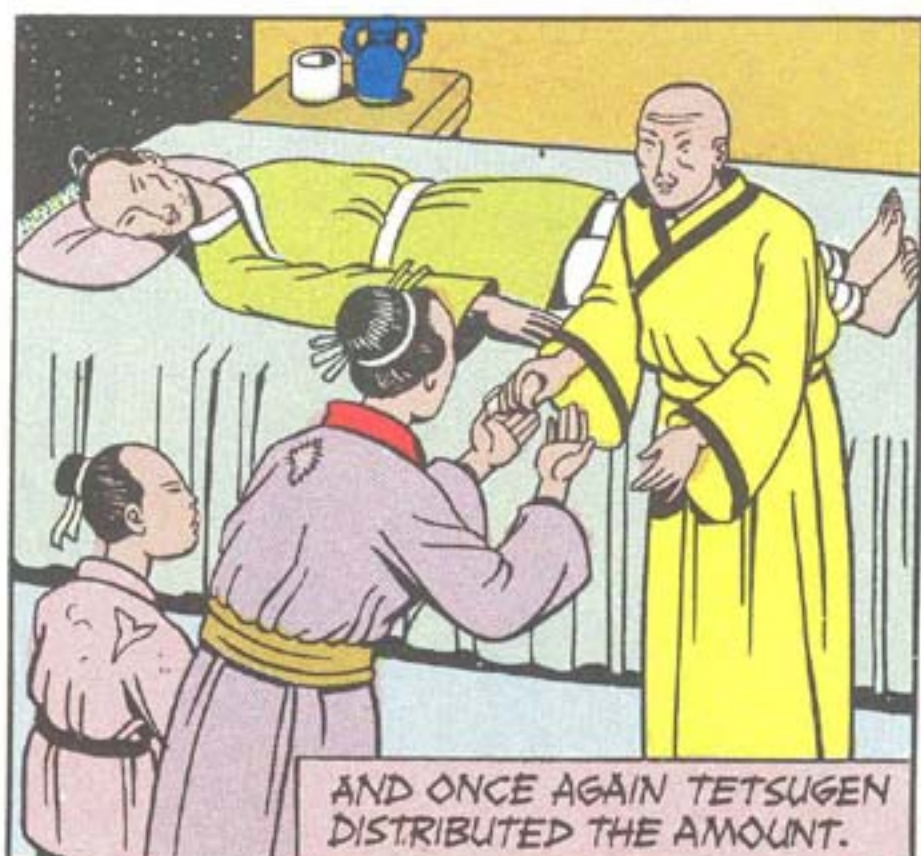
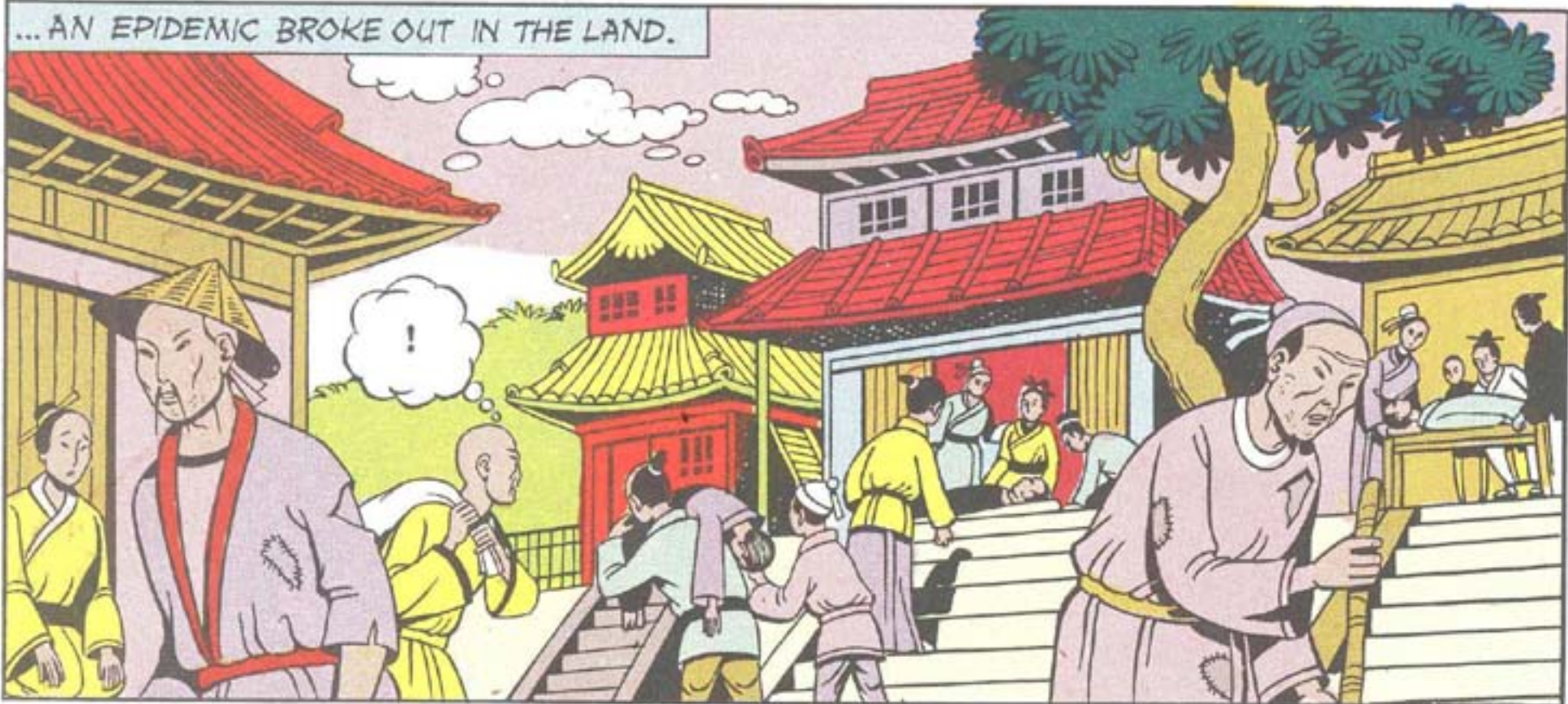
I MUST BEGIN ALL OVER AGAIN.



MANY YEARS LATER, WHEN HE HAD COLLECTED ENOUGH...

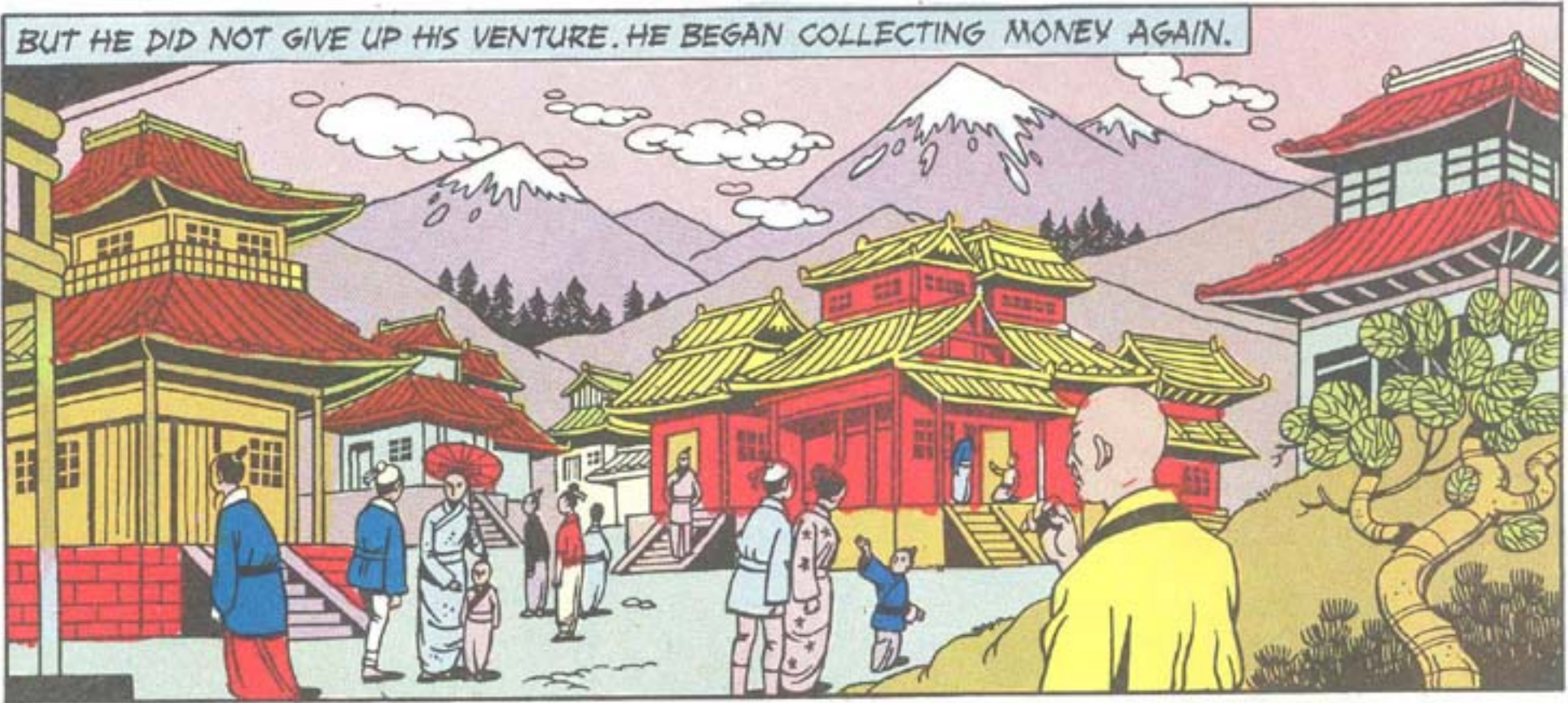


...AN EPIDEMIC BROKE OUT IN THE LAND.



AND ONCE AGAIN TETSUGEN DISTRIBUTED THE AMOUNT.

BUT HE DID NOT GIVE UP HIS VENTURE. HE BEGAN COLLECTING MONEY AGAIN.



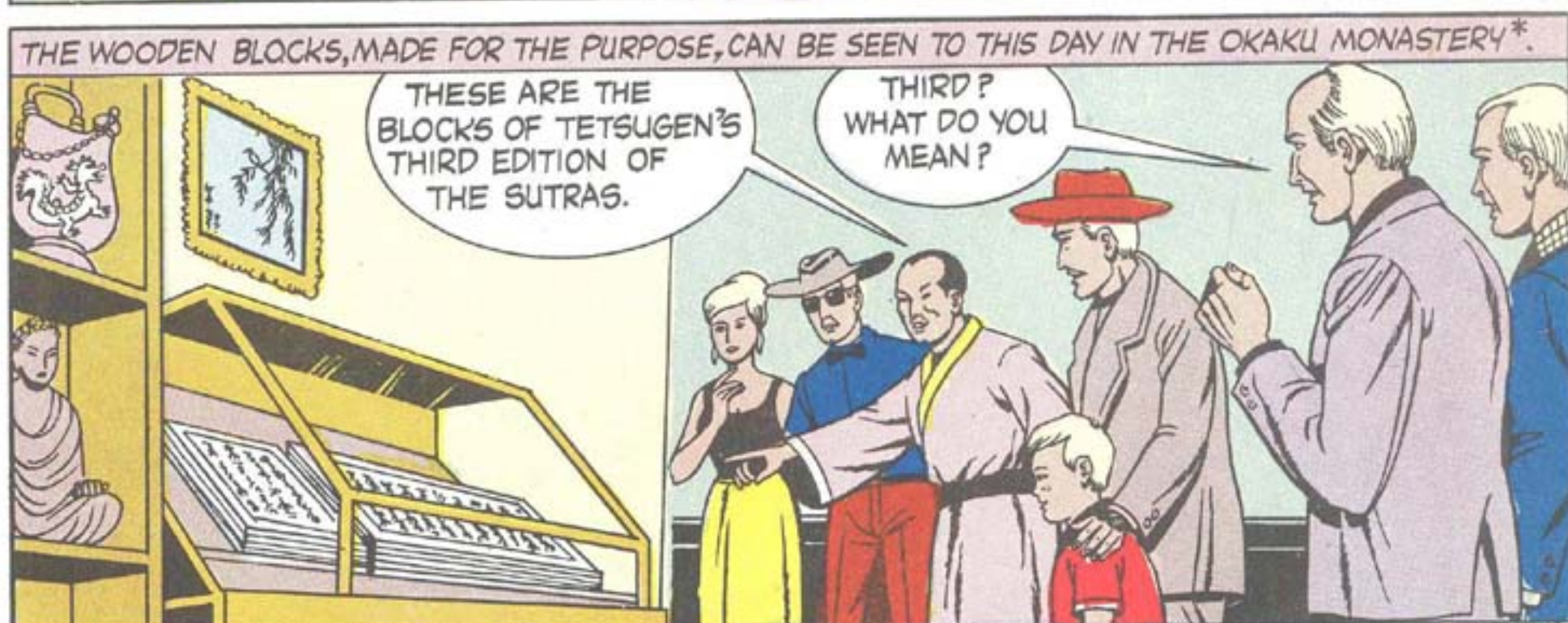
AND TWENTY YEARS LATER HIS DREAM OF PRINTING THE SUTRAS IN JAPANESE CHARACTERS CAME TRUE.



THE WOODEN BLOCKS, MADE FOR THE PURPOSE, CAN BE SEEN TO THIS DAY IN THE OKAKU MONASTERY*.

THESE ARE THE
BLOCKS OF TETSUGEN'S
THIRD EDITION OF
THE SUTRAS.

THIRD?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?



TO THE JAPANESE, TETSUGEN'S ACTS, OF FREELY DISTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDY THE MONEY HE HAD SO LABORIOUSLY COLLECTED, ARE IN THEMSELVES SUTRAS AND FAR SURPASS THE LAST, HIS PRINTED WORK.

**THE ALL-COMICS FORTNIGHTLY
LOVED BY CHILDREN! APPRECIATED
BY PARENTS! APPROVED BY TEACHERS!**



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THE MANY MISADVENTURES OF MONTU, THE MAHAKID

Some heroes are brave.
Some are cunning.
But some are like you and me.

Oh God, I can't find my cycle.

Just then...

Stop!
Stop!

He sees 2 men hurrying away.

Montu looks around to see if anyone is watching, because he's got a little secret.

He pops his favourite Maha Lacto into his mouth.

Montu is now the Mahakid!!

He runs after the robbers who took his cycle.

How would you like this story to end?

Win exciting prizes!

1st Prize

Konica Camera Junior POP.

Video Game.

2nd Prize

3rd Prize

Maha Lacto School Bag.

Maha Lacto Caps.

Consolation Prizes

Send in your entries by illustrating the rest of the story in 4 panels on a separate sheet of paper with your name, age and address, within ten days.

Enclose 10 Maha Lacto wrappers along with your entries and send to:

'The Maha Lacto Mahakid Contest',

10, Leith Castle Street, Santhome, Chennai-600 028.



The best Lacto in town.

LEFT



RIGHT



LEFT



RIGHT



**MARCH TO THE STORE AND
GET THE SEESAW STICKER
THAT COMES FREE WITH TWO
BIG BABOL MONO-PACKS.**



View from the left: Did the egg come before?

View from the right: Or was it the chicken?

Get a 3-D See-Saw sticker free with two mono-packs of Big Babol. All you have to do is shake your head to the left, then to the right. And the image will change in front of your eyes. So do the quick march to your nearest Big Babol dealer & buy two packs of Big Babol.

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PERFETTI